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Int'l artists to perform at LibDay fest. PAGE 8

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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75¢

Torres: CW bill hopefully becomes law by mid-July

Hundreds of Filipinos listen as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres delivers his inspirational speech at the 120th Philippine Independence Day celebration yesterday at the covered parking lot of Marianas Business Plaza.

KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
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REPORTER

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has high hopes that the bill to extend the CNMI's foreign workforce program by 10 years will soon pass the U.S Senate and be signed into law by mid-July.

Speaking at the 120th Philippine Independence Day celebration (Pistang Pinoy) yesterday, he said that H.R. 5956, the CNMI Workforce Act, will hopefully be signed by President Donald Trump by mid-July and all issues surrounding the CNMI's shortage of workers can finally be addressed.

See TORRES on Page 4

Motorist sues woman on phone

» San Roque car accident allegedly caused by distracted driving

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A man has filed a lawsuit over the injuries he allegedly suffered when a car being driven by a woman who was distracted by her cell phone rear-ended his vehicle along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in San Roque last January.

Rodel Laurenaria, through counsel Victorino DLG Torres, is suing Jin Hui Kwon before the Superior Court.

Laurenaria is demanding damages for pain and suffering, emotional distress, mental anguish, and expenses, as well as payment of court costs.

See MOTORIST on Page 4

United: Subsidy needed for more flights

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

If the CNMI wants United Airlines to add more flights between Saipan and Guam, plus a stop on Rota, the company would require government support of about $8 million a year.

According to documents containing proposals from the airline to the CNMI government, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*, United Airlines implementing four weekly Guam-Saipan flights plus a Rota stop would require at least $1.1 million for each additional flight from the

See UNITED on Page 4

Man allegedly stole 4 car batteries

A federal probationer allegedly stole four truck batteries from his former employer, then sold it with two other car batteries for $40.

U.S. probation officer Gregory F. Arriola told the U.S. District Court for the NMI last week that Edwin P. Blas admitted stealing the batteries and that the Department of Public Safety had already forwarded the matter to the Office of the Attorney General.

Arriola said the OAG is still deciding whether to prosecute the matter. Once a decision

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INSIDE

LOCAL
Kagman schools hold a joint Family Fun Day last June 2 at the Laolao Bay & Golf Resort.

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BUSINESS
Chinese President Xi Jinping extols free trade even as the G-7 summit ends in disarray.

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LIFE & STYLE
There's no evidence of foul play or violence in the death of Anthony Bourdain.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

Torres' pot concerns include criminal rates

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has concerns about the use of cannabis in the Commonwealth that he wants to first take up with the Legislature, including a possible impact on the crime rate.

In a news briefing last Wednesday, Torres said he has already reviewed Sen. Sixto Igisomar's (R-Saipan) Senate Bill 20-62, which proposes to allow the use of cannabis for recreational and medicinal purposes.

"…I have some inputs I would like to discuss with the members [of the Legislature]," he said, insisting that he respects the decision of the Senate.

Torres said he wants to know if there is a correlation between the passage of the marijuana bill in the 29 U.S. states that have legalized cannabis and any increase in crime.

"These are some of the things that we should really look into and not just the economic side of the bill," he said, reiterating that he is more concerned with the crime rates before and after the passage of the cannabis legalization bill.

The House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee led by Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) held a public hearing on the bill last Tuesday evening at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Buildinig in Susupe.

The JGO, in a meeting prior to the public hearing, supported the passage of S.B. 20-62. The bill is now up for discussion on the House floor. ***(Erwin Encinares)***

Tourism Topics

A bi-weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority

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HAFA ADAI & TIROW WAY

Cultural Tourism

More than ever, today's world traveler is looking for more than just a relaxing vacation. Even in a beach resort destination like The Marianas, visitors are seeking authentic cultural experiences generated by a genuine "sense of place" and interaction with local people.

With this in mind. the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) continues to encourage the development and expansion of opportunities for visitors to experience the cultures of indigenous Chamorros and Carolinians, complemented by the myriad of other cultures now represented in The Marianas.

The MVA's annual signature event International Festival of Cultures provides an opportunity for local cultures to showcase their dances, cuisine, handicrafts, and other elements for the community and visitors, alike. Organizational and financial support is also extended to similar celebrations steeped in local traditions on Tinian and Rota, such as the San Jose Fiesta and Bisita Luta celebration held in conjunction with San Francisco de Borja Fiesta.

More recently, the MVA has also supported the renovation of the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History & Culture, a wealth of information and intriguing artifacts from the pre-history, Spanish, German, German, and Trust Territory administrative eras of the islands. In cooperation with the Northern Marianas Humanities Council, a series of interpretive signs will soon describe sites along the newly established Garapan Heritage Trail. The MVA will also help fund the construction of a full-size Chamorro traditional sailing canoe patterned after historical schematics. Numerous other cultural projects have also been undertaken.

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Manila gets more time to amend complaint

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court has given inmate Reynaldo A. Manila until July 8 to amend his complaint or respond to the motions in connection with his lawsuit against Department of Corrections officials and officers.

At a telephonic status conference with the parties' counsel last Friday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said Manila amending his complaint will render moot the pending motions filed by the defendants.

If an amended complaint is filed, defendants have 14 days to answer.

If, instead of an amended complaint, Manila files a response to the pending motions, defendants' replies are due seven days after.

Manila, an inmate who claimed that he may be losing his vision due to the negligence of DOC, has already filed an amended complaint naming former DOC commissioner Georgia M. Cabrera, former DOC commissioner Robert Guerrero, and former acting DOC commissioner Jose K. Pangelinan as defendants.

Manila filed the amended complaint *pro se* (without a lawyer) following Manglona's order.

There are three pending motions filed by the defendants.

Cabrera has asked the court to order Manila to clarify his lawsuit against her and other DOC officials and officers.

Cabrera, through assistant attorney general Hessel Yntema, said she is unable to form a responsive pleading to Manila's complaint.

Cabrera is currently the director of DOC's civil division.

DOC, through OAG Civil Division chief Christopher M. Timmons, also filed a motion to dismiss DOC from the case and replace it with the CNMI government.

Timmons also asked the court to dismiss the suit, asserting that the Commonwealth is entitled to sovereign immunity against suits for damages that are brought in federal court.

Manila has sought help from the District Court after his eye surgery at the Commonwealth Health Center last September was allegedly unsuccessful and that he is worried he is losing his vision.

Manila said the actions and inactions of DOC have resulted in his suffering from unnecessary and wanton infliction of pain.

Manila, now 56 years old, has been serving 17 years of a 60-year prison term. The Superior Court sentenced him in June 2002 to 60 years in prison for second-degree murder over the death of his 6-month-old goddaughter.

A jury found Manila guilty of second-degree murder and child abuse.

Manila has insisted that he did not kill the child.

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Kilili: $2.7M for Rota airport

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is receiving $2,724,179, Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) announced. The federal funding will be used for fencing around the airport.

"Maintaining this perimeter fencing will help make sure that Rota's airport can keep its Airport Operating Certificate," Sablan explained. "And the money is a boost for Rota's economy."

He pointed out that shipping the materials to Rota, hiring workers, sales of food, gas, and electricity will all add up and help Rota's economy.

The Federal Aviation Administration requires in all states and non-state areas that airports serving aircraft designed for more than nine passengers be certified. One element for certification is that the public is protected against inadvertent entry to the airport.

The FAA also checks that aircraft rescue and firefighting equipment and personnel are ready for emergencies. Fuel facilities, lighting equipment, and a variety of other infrastructure and human resources must be in place, as well, to maintain the operating certificate.

Sablan

"Even though flight services to Rota are being cut, it is important to maintain the Rota airport in good operating condition, so certification remains current and Rota continues to have the welcome mat out for visitors," Sablan said. "In Congress, I will continue to support America's airports, especially those serving small communities like Rota. ***(PR)***

Senate to start budget talks

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

Budget talks are well under way as the Senate last Friday announced its intention to conduct budget hearings for the fiscal year 2019.

Sen. Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) wants the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee, which he chairs, to prioritize the budget needs of Tinian and Rota, as well as needs of the police and first responders.

The House of Representatives' Ways and Means Committee is already in the middle of budget hearings.

The Senate committee would meet with the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Fire and Emergence Medical Services on June 13 at the Senate chamber on Capital Hill at 9:30am and 1:30am, respectively.

The following day, June 14, 2018, the committee would head to Tinian to meet with the Tinian Mayor's Office and the Tinian Municipal Council at the Casino Gaming Control Commission conference room on Tinian at 1pm and 4pm, respectively.

Rota budget hearings would commence the day after on June 15, with a meeting with the Rota Mayor's Office at 9:30am in the mayor's conference room at the Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library in Songsong. An afternoon meeting would be held with the Rota Municipal Council at the same venue.

The announcements did not specify any additional meetings with other government agencies.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres has until Oct. 1, 2018, to approve a budget for fiscal year 2019, otherwise the government shuts down.

UNITED

From Page 1

CNMI government.

The least expensive offer from the airline, at $1.1 million annually, offers daily flights serving Guam and Saipan that "can stop on Rota twice per week." The first offer would originate from Guam going to Rota before going to Saipan and then Saipan to Guam on Tuesdays. On Fridays, flights would originate from Guam going to Saipan before heading to Rota and ultimately landing on Guam.

The second offer serves Rota four times a week for $2.2 million annually. The flight on Tuesdays and Fridays would originate from Guam going to Saipan, then Rota before ultimately arriving on Guam. On Wednesdays and Sundays, flights would originate from Guam going to Rota then Saipan, before looping back to Guam.

The third offer provides additional frequencies to "complement" the daily Guam-Saipan flights with stops on Rota every Tuesday and Saturday evening. The trip also includes additional flights connecting Guam and Saipan after first dropping by Rota. United requires $4 million for two additional weekly Guam-Saipan flights with a stop on Rota in the evening.

The fourth offer, which is the most expensive, provides four additional weekly evening flights dropping by Rota every Sunday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. United requires the CNMI government to pay $8 million annually.

"We are in the final stage of opening up routes to Rota," said Gov. Ralph DLG Torres in a press conference last Wednesday. "...What we are moving now is trying to get flights to Rota—at least twice a week from United," he said, adding that he is also discussing with the airline the possibility of opening direct flights to Japan.

"We are still working on those numbers," said Torres. He added that another airline is also interested.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) in a statement issued June 6, stated that he had written to United chief executive officer Oscar Munoz, to ask the carrier to consider increasing the number of flights between Saipan and Guam each day.

The delegate cited increased travel times for connecting passengers as well as increased costs and inconveniences as hindrances for the travelling public due to the "reduction in service."

He added that the new schedule "forces Saipan passengers to wait 21 hours in Guam before they can depart for Hawaii, a major route connecting to the U.S. mainland.

"…Passengers from Honolulu arrive at 6pm, and have to wait overnight in Guam for 13 hours before they can connect for Saipan the next morning," Sablan added.

MOTORIST

From Page 1

The plaintiff requested a mandatory mediation conference. If mediation is unsuccessful, he wants a jury trial.

As of press time yesterday, *Saipan Tribune* was still trying to get comments from Kwon.

According to Torres in the complaint, last Jan. 2, Laurenaria was driving his vehicle north on the inner lane along Chalan Pale Arnold Road in San Roque when Kwon's car rear-ended his vehicle.

Torres said that Kwon was on her cell phone and was behind Laurenaria's vehicle when the accident happened.

The lawyer said Kwon was negligent, reckless, and careless and was not paying attention to her driving by using her cell phone while driving, failing to stop at a distance, and failing to keep a proper lookout, among other things.

The complaint did not indicate the plaintiff's specific injuries and the extent of damage to his car.

Last June 1, a call to a 16-year-old female driver's cell phone reportedly led to a collision involving a fuel tanker and two other vehicles along Chalan Pale Arnold Road at the Garapan-Gualo Rai boundary. Fortunately, no one suffered major injuries.

According to Department of Public Safety's records, distracted driving, such as the use of cell phones and mixing betel nuts and other things while driving, accounts for many crashes in the CNMI.

In 2017, over 200 vehicular crashes were blamed on distracted driving.

TORRES

From Page 1

"I am very proud that we have such a good relationship with U.S Congress. H.R. 5956 was recently passed in the House and we continue to communicate with the senators and also the White House…We are hopeful that, by the end of June or mid-July, we will be able to address our CW workers," he said.

Hundreds of immigrant workers, not just Filipinos, attended the celebration to witness Torres speak and to hear for themselves the good news about H.R 5956's current standing.

According to Torres, he will continue to fight for immigrant workers who have created lives for themselves in the CNMI.

"As you know, when I was the Senate president…we did public hearings and was the first documented government officer to ever support long-term guest workers. …It is not something that we fought for yesterday or just today. It is a vision that we've had for a long time, to do what it takes to protect everyone in our community because your children and my children are the same," he said.

Torres pointed out that children born to CNMI locals and children born to immigrant workers in CNMI soil are not different.

"Your children, my children, our children, are serving in the U.S armed forces, are teachers, are nurses. You fill all the occupations that we have here in the CNMI…," he said.

Torres said that immigrant workers are a big part of the CNMI's economy and played a part in building the CNMI and for making it what it is today.

"Thank you for continuing to make the CNMI your home. It is the reason why we continue to fight in Congress for stability, not just for families, not just for economics, but for our entire future," he said.

Glicerio Arago, the Philippines' honorary consul to the CNMI, said that *Pistang Pinoy* was perfect timing as the celebration happened just as Torres has something positive to share, news that lifted a huge weight from the shoulders of every immigrant worker in the CNMI.

"This is really a cause for celebration and it is perfect timing," he said.

Pistang Pinoy took place at the covered parking lot of Marianas Business Plaza yesterday from 7am to 10pm in celebration of Philippine Independence Day.

Philippine Independence Day itself falls on June 12.

MAN

From Page 1

is reached, Arriola said he would update the District Court and possibly request for court action.

He visited Blas at his home in Koblerville last April 25, during which Arriola subjected him to a breathalyzer test after seeing an open can of beer at the house.

The test showed Blas with a blood alcohol level of .021 percent. Blas admitted consuming a can of beer prior to Arriola's arrival. The legal BAC limit is .08 percent.

In the case of the alleged theft of batteries, Arriola said a police officer went to the Atkins Kroll car dealership in San Jose last Nov. 8 in response to a theft complaint.

The officer later met with an employee, who disclosed that Blas had sold him six used car/truck batteries that morning. The employee said four of the six batteries were the types used for trucks. The employee suspected that the four batteries appeared to have been removed forcibly from the engine compartment.

The employee said he paid Blas $40 for the batteries and provided a copy of the transaction receipt to the officer.

That same day, the officer managed to talk with the victim, who noticed earlier that day that four truck batteries were missing from his shop in China Town.

The victim attempted to locate the batteries by checking various car dealership around the island and eventually found them at Atkins Kroll.

The victim suspected that his former employee, Blas, was involved.

Arriola said that last Dec. 6, a police detective interviewed Blas, who allegedly admitted that he indeed stole the batteries and that he was with his wife at the time of the incident.

Blas confessed that the next day, he dropped his wife to work, then went to Atkins Kroll to sell the batteries for $40.

The report did not mention whether the two car batteries were also stolen from the same victim.

Blas allegedly claimed that he stole the batteries because his former employer treated him badly when he was still working at the shop.

On July 27, 2016, Blas' supervised release was revoked and he was sentenced to one-month imprisonment, followed by 51 months of supervised release for using marijuana and lying to his probation officer.

On May 18, 2017, Blas' supervised release was revoked again for using methamphetamine and alcohol. He received seven days of imprisonment followed by 41 months of supervised release.

On Feb. 9, 2016, the court granted the U.S. Probation Office's recommendation that the condition ordering community service be removed from the judgment against Blas because he is a sex offender.

Blas has a previous local conviction for a sex offense, requiring him to maintain his registration with the DPS' Sex Offender Registry.

In 1999, the District Court sentenced Blas to 180 months in prison for hostage taking and for felon in possession of ammunition.

In July 2013, he completed his prison term and his five-year supervised release then commenced.

In April 2014, Blas' supervised release conditions were modified to prohibit him from drinking alcoholic beverages.

In October 2014, the court revoked his supervised release for eight months due to continued alcohol use. He was then placed on 52 months of supervised release. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Zoning approves two more projects

By JON PEREZ
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REPORTER

The CNMI Zoning board has approved the conditional applications for a bed-and-breakfast and a seven-story apartment complex along Beach Road.

Both projects were discussed in last Monday night's board meeting at the Tanapag Middle School cafeteria but more focus was given to the plan of New Century Hotel LLC to convert the existing Sebastian building into a 48-room hotel.

Ogumoro

The board, based on the recommendations of Zoning administrator Therese T. Ogumoro and her staff, gave all three projects the thumbs up.

Share View Travel Corp. plans to turn four existing structures into 18 units for a bed-and-breakfast in Gualo Rai that is zoned as village residential. The structures are two stories each and come with a maintenance building.

Share View is required to obey all regulatory agencies that have jurisdiction over its project and to follow all CNMI tax laws, including Public Law 10-20, the CNMI hotel occupancy tax.

"[The] applicant shall ensure that its operation does not generate noise, odor, light, and dust that will affect the neighborhood. [They] shall [also] improve its parking area and designate clearly marked parking stalls in front of its establishment, which conforms to parking requirements of the Saipan zoning law of 2013," said Ogumoro in her memorandum to the board.

Share View must also landscape its premises fronting the street and make sure that none of its clients are made to park vehicles on public streets.

"[Share View] shall keep its premises and immediate surrounding areas clean and free from trash, waste or debris, and shall screen any trash bins from public view," Ogumoro wrote in her letter to the board.

Art Ridge, meanwhile, is proposing to build a seven-story apartment complex that will have 48 three-bedroom units, with their project classified as multifamily that is located near Triple J Motors along Beach Road.

Ogumoro and her staff, aside from the same recommendations on Share View, want Art Ridge to coordinate with the CNMI Department of Public Works to make sure proper material is used to improve Pumpkin Street, which fronts their planned project.

The recommendation was made to ensure the safe movement of vehicles along the street and at the same time manage soil erosion.

TRIPLE J DONATION
The Liberation Day committee poses for a photo with Triple J Enterprises representatives to officiate Triple J's donation for this year's Liberation Day festival.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

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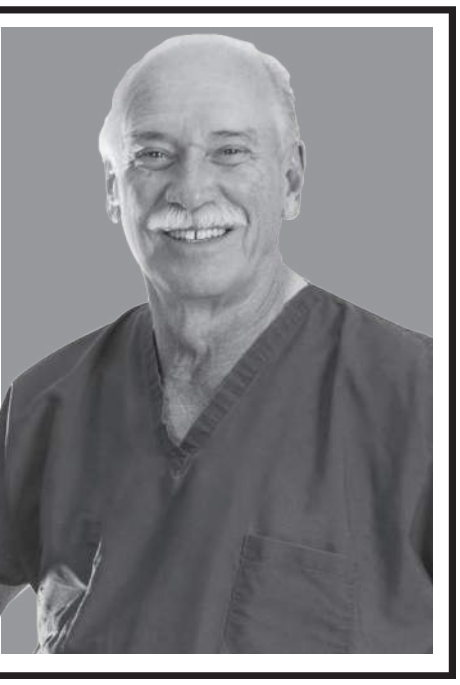

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Military training at FDM, Warning Area 517

ASAN, Guam—The U.S. military will conduct training at Farallon de Medinilla from 12:01am on June 9, to 11:59pm on June 17.

The military will also conduct training at Warning Area 517 on:

- June 12, from 4pm to 9pm
- June 13, from 1:30pm to 9pm
- June 15, from 3pm to 8pm

It is recommended the public, fishermen, and marine tour operators monitor the Coast Guard broadcast notice to mariners for advisories.

The general location of the training on the island of Farallon de Medinilla will be in a 12-nautical mile radius of the island.

W-517 begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. ***(PR)***

Mendiola graduates from military training

U.S. Air Force airman Joshua D. Mendiola has graduated from basic military training at Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland, San Antonio, Texas. The airman completed an intensive, eight-week program that included training in military discipline and studies, Air Force core values, physical fitness, and basic warfare principles and skills. Airmen who complete basic training also earn four credits toward an associate in applied science degree through the Community College of the Air Force. Mendiola earned distinction as an honor graduate. He is a 2017 graduate of Saipan Southern High School. ***(PR)***

Intro to recovery and peer support

The Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc., in collaboration with Peerlink National Technical Assistance Center, will be hosting an Introduction to Recovery and Peer Support training.

Peerlink works to strengthen the capacity and infrastructure of peer-run programs and traditional mental health organizations.

These sessions are open to all who are interested about the topics of recovery and peer support, including family members, and providers.

The conversation on recovery talks about perceptions and ideals around mental health and addiction recovery.

Recovery from mental disorders and/or substance abuse disorders is a process of change through which individuals may improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to achieve their full potential.

The discussion then moves to peer support, services run by people who personal experience living with psychiatric disabilities and/or addictions. Peers understand how it can affect every aspect of living, including one's hope for the future.

The training for Saipan will be held on Monday, June 11, 2018 from 6pm to 9pm at the Northern Marianas College, Room A-4.

The Rota training will be on Thursday, June 14 from 9am to 12pm at the Northern Marianas College-Rota, Room A-1.

These sessions are open to all who are interested about the topics of recovery and peer support, including peers, family members, and providers.

For more information about recovery and peer support, contact the PAIMI program through NMPASI at 235-7273 or 235-7274. ***(PR)***

Sailors for Exercise Malabar to volunteer

ASAN, Guam—Service members from India, Japan, and the United States are partnering to give back to the island community over the next couple of days as they are on island in support of exercise Malabar.

Sailors from India and Japan will join volunteers from USS *Antietam* and spend time visiting with island elderly at the Tamuning Senior Citizens Center from 9am to 3pm on Friday, June 8.

Sailors from the three nations will also learn about the medicinal properties of native plants and trees as well as assist local community members spruce up the one-fourth acre Amot Farm in Dededo from 10am to 4pm on June 9.

The U.S. Navy and international maritime counterparts are participating in exercise Malabar 2018 off the coast of Guam.

Malabar 2018 is the first time the exercise has been conducted off the coast of Guam. ***(PR)***

Salsa class at public library

On May 25, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library hosted a basic salsa class for teens and adults. The night was fun-filled and was enjoyed by all. Participants had the opportunity to learn salsa, as well as bachata. The instructors, Ren G. and Bobby S., provided a great class for the community.

For the latest news and events, visit the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's website at www.cnmilib.org and like and/or follow JKPL's Facebook page, @joeten kiyu. Call the library at 670-235-7322/23 for questions/concerns. The library's summer hours are as follows: Tuesday - Friday, 9am - 5:30pm, Saturday, 9am - 4pm, and closed Sundays, Mondays, and holidays. ***(PR)***

Water outage in San Vicente

There will be a scheduled water service interruption on June 13, from 8am to 5pm for the San Vicente area, specifically for customers residing in the following streets: Katupat Drive, Bentana Drive, Laulau Bay Drive, Hotdu Drive, and the lower portion of Katbon Road.

The purpose of the water service interruption is to allow Commonwealth Utilities Corp. personnel to perform repairs and overhauls of old fittings on the existing 4-inch pressure reducing valve. As a result of the replacement and overhaul, a more reliable water system will be provided to the community. Customers in the affected areas should expect restoration of water services soon after.

For more information, contact the CUC Customer Call Center (664-4282). ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building
P.O. Box 501220 CK • Saipan, MP 96950-1220
Tel: (670) 664-4282 • Facsimile: (670) 235-5131

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Open Government Act (1 CMC §9901 et seq), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation ("CUC") Board of Directors hereby informs the general public that the Board will hold a special board meeting on Tuesday, June 12, 2018, at 5:30 p.m. The meeting will be held at the CUC Conference Room, Room 17, 3rd Floor, Joeten Dandan Building to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome.

AGENDA*

I. Preliminary Matters
   A. Call to Order
   B. Roll Call
   C. Reading of the Notice of the Agenda
   D. Adoption of Agenda

II. Public Comments**

III. Old Business
   1. FY 2019 Operations Budget
   2. Personnel Matters

IV. Executive Session***

V. Announcements

VI. Adjournment

* Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Agenda maybe modified during the meeting.

** Public comments are limited to 30 minutes and each remark is limited to three minutes. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments.

*** Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board of Directors may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-020

REMOVAL AND RELOCATION OF ENGINES 8 AND 4 AT POWER PLANT NO.1, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No.1, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, of the removal of the engine frame and alternator assemblies from its foundation, dismantling and further relocation to a designated location as detailed in the bid documents. Both engines have been partially dismantled by the plant personnel.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **60 calendar days** from the date of issuance of the Notice to Proceed (NTP).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non- refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **May 22, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC power plant Conference Room. Prospective Bidders are mandated to attend both Pre-Bid and Site Visit.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-IFB-18-020 - Removal and relocation of Engine 8 Alternator and Engine No. 4 Frame & Alternator at Power Plant No. 1, Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI"*, to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 15, 2018**, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 90 days after submission.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

Bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered Prospective Bidders and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on May 31, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Venugopal Prabhakara, CUC Project Manager – via email venugopal.prabhakara@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC Purchasing Assistant-via email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY P. CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN, JR.
Purchasing Administrator

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-18-011

GUALO RAI WATERLINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified firms for the Construction of Gualo Rai Waterline Replacement in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project consists, in general installation of a new main waterline and lateral service line; connection to the existing waterline; installation of gate valve assembly, PRV and PSV, flush hydrants, air release valves, fire hydrant assembly; existing lateral service tap relocation; restoration of existing asphalt concrete road; and other related work. The work shall be done in accordance with the Project Plans and Specifications and without disruption to the daily operation of the water system.

This project is funded by a grant from the United Sates of Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA). The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the approval for project award from USEPA.

CUC requires the Project to be completed in **365 calendar** days from date of award of contract.

Prospective Bidders for this IFB must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $200.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

A Pre-Bid Conference followed by a Site Visit is scheduled on **June 21, 2018 at 10:00 AM (ChST)** at the CUC Main Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Room No.17, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **"CUC-IFB-18-011, Gualo Rai Water Line Replacement Project",** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 10, 2018,** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered. Bid shall be submitted on the provided Bid Forms. Bidders are required to complete all Bid Forms. Bidders may supplement the form as appropriate. Bids will be required to be submitted under a condition of irrevocability for a period of 60 days after submission. **Late submissions and conditional bids will not be considered.**

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid under the contract.

A *Bid Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The bid guarantee may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States, Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidder. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All questions or request for clarification regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on June 25, 2018** to Mr. Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Officer, via email – manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Mr. Larry Manacop, CUC Water/Wastewater Associate Engineer – via email larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Ms. Christie Sablan, Procurement & Supply, Administrative Support Assistant – via email christie.sablan@cucgov.org

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the best interest of the government. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

‘This is good news for our island’

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang expressed enthusiasm over the recent passage of the Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act, describing the development as “a great deal” for the CNMI’s developing economy.

“It’s really great for the whole CNMI. I just hope the Senate moves on the bill as fast as they can so we can have that relief for our foreign workers,” he said.

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the proposed act last June 5. It will now be voted on by the U.S. Senate and, if passed, would make its way to U.S. President Donald Trump.

Apatang said the loss of foreign workers, especially in the hotel industry, could cripple the CNMI economy.

“We’re seeing a lot of the hotel industries now that are suffering…A lot of the CW workers have left and they’re struggling to replace these workers that have left,” he said.

The United Filipino Organization, which has also been closely monitoring the bill’s status, was overjoyed with the bill’s passage in the U.S. House.

“We are glad…and we are very thankful…all praises to the CNMI leadership and to those who made an excellent effort to make this happen,” said UFO president Marlon Regaton.

MANGO to host nonprofit tax-exempt workshop

The Marianas Alliance for Non-Governmental Organizations is hosting its first workshop of 2018 to help organizations apply for local or federal 501(c)3 nonprofit tax-exempt status on June 12, Tuesday, from 5pm to 8pm, at the Westcare office next to Bank of Hawaii on Middle Road.

The workshop will also answer any questions for nonprofits who have not officially received tax-exempt status and are still required to pay taxes.

For many new nonprofits, receiving tax-exempt status can be an overwhelming battle. Nonprofits are only tax-exempt if they have filed a Form 1023 or 1023-EZ and receive an official letter from either the federal government or the CNMI government stating their tax-exempt status was granted.

Paying an accountant to file the Form 1023 can cost between $2,000 and $5,000, on top of over $850 in fees required paid to the local government or federal government for 501(c)3 status. For a new nonprofit with limited resources, financing these costs can be a huge burden.

The MANGO Nonprofit Tax-Exempt Workshop will help newly forming nonprofits walk through the Form 1023 or 1023-EZ so organizations can fill out the paperwork themselves. There will also be a question-and-answer session with a representative from the CNMI Department of Finance’s Revenue and Taxation to answer any questions about the process of filing for tax-exempt status, paying taxes before receiving tax-exempt status, and reporting requirements after receiving tax-exempt status.

Participants are encouraged to bring any financial tracking information they may have (e.g., budgets, ledgers, financial statements). Bringing this information is not required to attend the workshop, but it will make filling out the form easier. The Form 1023 asks for all of an organization’s financial information from inception (or the time the Articles of Incorporation were filed), or if you filed your Articles of Incorporation before Jan. 1, 2015, all financial information post-Jan. 1, 2015.

A light dinner will be provided. This workshop is free for participants.

Both the Form 1023 and Form 1023-EZ are available online.

MANGO’s principal purpose is to serve as an umbrella organization and resource for CNMI non-profits to promote and provide leadership, advocacy, educational awareness, and technical assistance to its members and the community. For more information, email cnmimango@gmail.com or call Maxine at 285-7739. Participants planning to attend are encouraged to call or email ahead of time to RSVP. ***(PR)***

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Int'l artists to perform at LibDay fest

The Liberation Day festival is going far and beyond this year, with the logistics committee bringing in two international artists to perform during the July 4th evening program.

Liberation Day committee logistics chair Shayne Villanueva said at the weekly Liberation Day committee meeting that he has secured headline performers Leilani Wolfgramm and DJ Hapa Boy to perform at the Liberation Day celebration.

"She [Wolfgram] will be doing a special performance…right before the raffle on July 4…she is here for a concert on July 7 but she's gracing us with her presence on July 4 so she will be a headlining performer," he said

Wolfgramm, an international artist who got started on her musical journey in Orlando, Florida, has since expanded and has been able to share her talents in other U.S. states and now, the CNMI. Wolfgramm has made it big in Hawaii and has also been nominated for Female Artist of the Year for her island music in Hawaii's Island Radio 98.5 Awards.

According to Villanueva, DJ Hapa Boy is an international DJ out of Hawaii. "He's a very large personality there in Hawaii…he'll be here also and he is very popular with the teens," he said.

DJ Hapa Boy started his musical journey in Hawaii. According to an online source, DJ Hapa Boy started off as a videographer for club promoter Artist Groove Network. With the amount of exposure his videos and he was getting, he launched his DJ career in 2010 and has since been one of the top entertainers in Hawaii.

Both Wolfgramm and DJ Hapa Boy are currently touring in Hawaii, but will make it down to Saipan on July 4 for the festivities.

Villanueva said that he has also secured an amazing firework show and will also feature local talents during the Liberation Day festivities.

"We have the fireworks… we have the marching bands who will be performing during the fireworks on July 4 evening…. We're bringing in a headliner to bring in the entertainment…We will also be doing movie nights and some other stuff as well," he said.

The 2018 Liberation Day festivities will start on June 29 and will lead up to the Liberation Day parade on July 4. The festivities will be held at the Garapan Fishing Base. ***(Kimberly Bautista)***

CHCC gets a huge shot in the arm

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Providing health and medical care in the CNMI is expected to become faster after the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. received a $250,000 donation from Docomo Pacific to upgrade the hospital's patient recordkeeping system.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres, Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Sen. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), CHCC chief executive officer Esther L. Muña, hospital administrator Jesse M. Tudela, and Docomo officials were present in Wednesday's check presentation at the CHCC conference room.

The donation, which is intended for the hospital's medical records system, will be given across five years, starting with the $50,000 handed over last Wednesday. Improving the health electronic system, and re-engineering and providing technical assistance to the hospital's IT department were the things that Muña had brought up when she met with Docomo Pacific officials a few years ago.

She said the amount is a significant contribution. "Ensuring that we have a [health records] system that works is one of our biggest challenges. We've invested a lot of money in helping the IT department. They need the tools to make sure the physicians do their services for our patient care," said Muña. "This is a great contribution and we thank the governor and the Legislature for their support."

She added that the Commonwealth Health Center and the CNMI's patients will benefit from the collaboration between the government and Docomo. "We've improved our servers and done a lot of upgrades with our system."

"Docomo has done a lot for [the hospital] like holding a golf tournament to help our pediatric unit. We truly appreciate this contribution and all the help," she added.

Torres said that upgrading the electronic health record system is something that is needed. "We've been working on this and we thank Docomo for their partnership with CHCC and the hospital," Torres said. "This is something that is needed and obviously for a long time. [Docomo's] continued contribution with the electronic health record system definitely gives us a measurement that we need to look at our healthcare in the entire CNMI."

He thanked Muña and Tudela for their continued efforts to enhance the healthcare system. "This is another step forward in making sure that the needed healthcare is provided to our people."

Free notary and copying services

The Northern Marianas College is reminding students and members of the community about NMC's upcoming "Cash for College" workshop on Saturday, June 16, 2018.

In addition to receiving help in finding money for college, workshop participants can also have their financial aid documents notarized and photocopied without charge.

The free workshop on Saipan will be held in Building A at the NMC As Terlaje campus. It will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and 12pm. The workshop will also be held on Tinian on June 20, 2018, from 9am to 1pm at NMC's Tinian campus.

At the workshop participants will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, CNMI Scholarship, Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance, and other scholarship programs.

Staff members from the college's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC admission application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming fall semester. This represents a savings of up to $75.

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), copy of 2016 and 2017 1040, copy of 2016 and 2017 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency. Applicants for SHEFA should bring a valid U.S. passport or a voter registration card.

For additional information, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu. ***(NMC)***

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Unit 104 of Marianas Business Plaza Building, Nauru Loop, Susupe, Saipan. Please look for Ms. Hazel dela Santa

Phone calls and email inquiries are not accepted

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB18-OPD-094

SUBMISSION DATE: July 05, 2018 • TIME: 9:30 A.M.

"OFFICE SPACE FOR THE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT (OPD)"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE LESSOR MUST COMPLY WITH THE CNMI PUBLIC LAW 15-23, ARTICLE 5, SECTION 8652 (A) – (D).

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ASCHUMAR KODEP OGUMORO-ULUDONG
DIRECTOR, OPD

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB18-COTA/FTA-105

SUBMISSION DATE: JULY 11, 2018 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF TWO (2) ADA COMPLIANT TRANSIT BUSES FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OFFICE OF TRANSIT AUTHORITY"

THE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THIS PROJECT WILL BE AVAILABLE ON OR AFTER JUNE 11, 2018 AT COTA, OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL ASSISTANT FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION, 2ND FLOOR SUITE 216 MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZA, NARU LOOP, SUSUPE, SAIPAN.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP MUST BE SUBMITTED VIA EMAIL TO MR. JADE MANGUBAT AT cota16assistant@gmail.com NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, 4:30PM, LOCAL TIME, JUNE 27, 2018.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; BIDDERS ARE REQUIRED TO COMPLY WITH FTA FEDERAL CONTRACT CLAUSES AS APPLICABLE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ALFREDA P. CAMACHO
S/A FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

JUDICIARY
Northern Mariana Islands

Request for Proposals
18-JUDICIARY-04

INSTALLATION OF SURVEILLANCE CAMERAS
at the
GUMA HUSTISIA, IIMWAL AWEEWE, HOUSE OF JUSTICE, SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Submission Date: June 28, 2018, 3:00 P.M.

The Commonwealth Judicial Branch is soliciting sealed proposals for the installation of thirty five (35) surveillance cameras to be installed at the Guma Hustisia/Iimwal Aweewe/House of Justice, Saipan.

Firms or individuals submitting proposals must have a valid CNMI business license and be in compliance with applicable local and federal laws and regulations, including minimum wage requirements.

Proposal procedures shall comply with CNMI Procurement Regulations (NMIAC Title 70, Subchapter 30.3).

The proposal package will be available on Monday, June 11, 2018 at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan, or by request emailed to Jim.Stowell@justice.gov.mp.

A mandatory pre-proposal meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 19, at 9:00 a.m., local time at the Guma Hustisia Law Revision Commission–Law Library. The meeting is expected to take at least an hour in order to provide prospective proposal submitters the opportunity to acquire sufficient knowledge of the building and the coaxial cable runs from cameras to the control / recording room so as to be able to present a bid that completely anticipates the material and labor costs entailed in completing the job.

Sealed proposals must be marked RFP18-JUDICIARY-04 and submitted with one (1) original and three (3) copies at the Cashier's Window, Guma Hustisia, Saipan no later than June 28, 2018, 3:00 p.m., local time. Firms or individuals submitting proposals from outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose to the Budget and Finance Director no later than July 5, 2018, 3:00 p.m., local time. Notices of Intent may be faxed to (670) 236-9797 or emailed to John.Villagomez@justice.gov.mp.

The CNMI Judiciary the right to reject any or all proposals, or portions thereof, and waive immaterial defects if to do so would be in the best interest of the CNMI Judiciary. All proposals received shall become the property of the CNMI Judiciary and will not be returned to the proposer.

/s/ Alexandro C. Castro
Chief Justice

/s/ John T. Villagomez
Budget and Finance Director

REXFORD C. KOSACK
GLENN A. JEWELL
LAW OFFICES OF REXFORD C. KOSACK
Second Floor, MH I Building
P.O. Box 500410
Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 322-8800
(670) 322-7800

Attorneys for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF	)	**Civil Action**
	)	**No. 18-0150-CV**
BRIAN WILLIAM McMAHON,	)	**NOTICE OF HEARING**
	)	**AND**
DECEASED.	)	**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

TO: THE HEIRS, THE GENERAL PUBLIC, AND THE CREDITORS OF THE DECEDENT OR OF HIS ESTATE

You are hereby notified that John Patrick McMahon of King County, Washington, has petitioned the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed Executor of the Estate of Brian William McMahon, deceased. The attorney of record for the petitioner is Rexford C. Kosack, whose address is P.O. Box 500410, Saipan, MP 96950.

The hearing is set for July 19, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. before Judge Joseph N. Camacho, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard, in the Multi Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan. All interested parties should appear at that time. All persons having claims against the deceased or his estate are required to file their claims with the Clerk of Court within sixty (60) days of this publication or the claim will be forever barred. A copy of your claim should be sent to Rexford C. Kosack at the above-mentioned address.

Dated this 7th day of June, 2018.

/s/ Joseph N. Camacho
Associate Judge

Kukkun, Michael Itibus
P.O. Box 502610 Saipan, MP 96950
(670) 322-3536

Pro se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In The Matter Of	)	FCD-AD-CIVIL
The Adoption Of:	)	ACTION
L.P.N.K.	)	NO. 18-0216
Minor Child	)	
	)	**NOTICE OF**
By:	)	**HEARING**
Michael Itibus Kukkun	)	
Lucinda Cabrera Kukkun	)	
Petitioner(s)	)	

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on 30th day of July, 2018 at 9:00 AM in Courtroom 217A, before the Honorable Judge Kim-Tenorio

Dated this 1st day of June, 2018.

/s/

By: Patrick V. Diaz, Deputy Clerk of Court

CNMI SCHOLARSHIP BOARD
Caller Box 10007, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No. 670-664-4750
Website: www.cnmischolarship.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Scholarship Board of Directors is hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular board meeting on Monday, June 13, 2018 at 11:00 am on Saipan. The meeting will be held at the CNMI Scholarship Office Conference Room.

AGENDA

I. Meeting Call to Order
II. Determination of Quorum
III. Review and Adoption of Agenda
IV. Review and Adoption of Minutes
V. Old Business
a. High Achiever Travel Aid (HATA)
b. MR WORKS
c. Amendment to Regulations
VI. New Business
a. FY19 Budget
b. AY2018/2019 Programs
c. Board Professional Development Day
d. Election of Vice Chairperson
e. BOD Committee Appointments on Vacancies
VII. Executive Session
VIII. CSO Administrator's Updates
IX. Announcements & Next Meeting
X. Adjournment

/s/ Geralyn C. Dela Cruz, Chairwoman

More than 300 take part in Kagman Family Fun Day

The joint Parents Teachers Students Association of Kagman schools' first Family Fun Day last June 2 at the Laolao Bay Golf & Resort driving range was attended by more than 300 people who visited the booths and participated in the fun and games.

Agencies that had booths included the Commonwealth Election Commission, there to register voters and answer questions about election venues, among others.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Bookmobile and Friends of JPKL Library came to support with books, balloons and games.

The Paire Soccer Club showcased soccer fun and recruited players for the new season. Their players were key volunteers throughout the event, hosting competition in their demo games and supporting the PTSA with setup and running of booths like the Department of Public Safety-donated dunking booth, where students made a big splash.

The Northern Marianas College-CREES was also there to promote the healthy lifestyle, educating families

about portion size and sugar.

The Division of Youth Services and the Parents Anonymous group came to promote their summer programs and share information about the services they offer.

The first ever Chamorro and Carolinian Language Immersion program at Kagman Elementary School for Kindergartners also had a booth and gave away prizes for people who answered questions quizzed from their brochure that day. Their first cohort of students from this

year performed for everyone at the event.

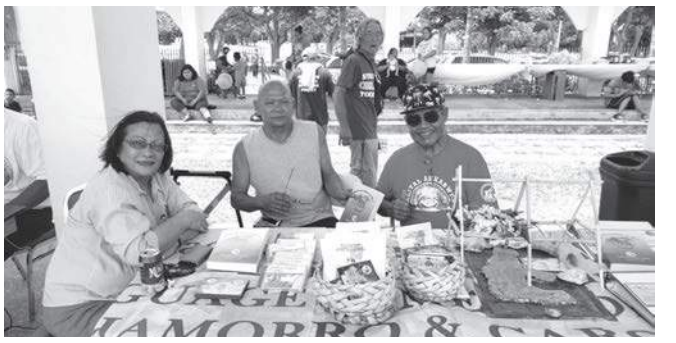
Cultural icons Gus Kaipat and Lino Olipai also serenaded the crowd. The program is only available in Kagman and is open for enrollment. They are looking for interested parents to enroll Kindergarten-age children for next year.

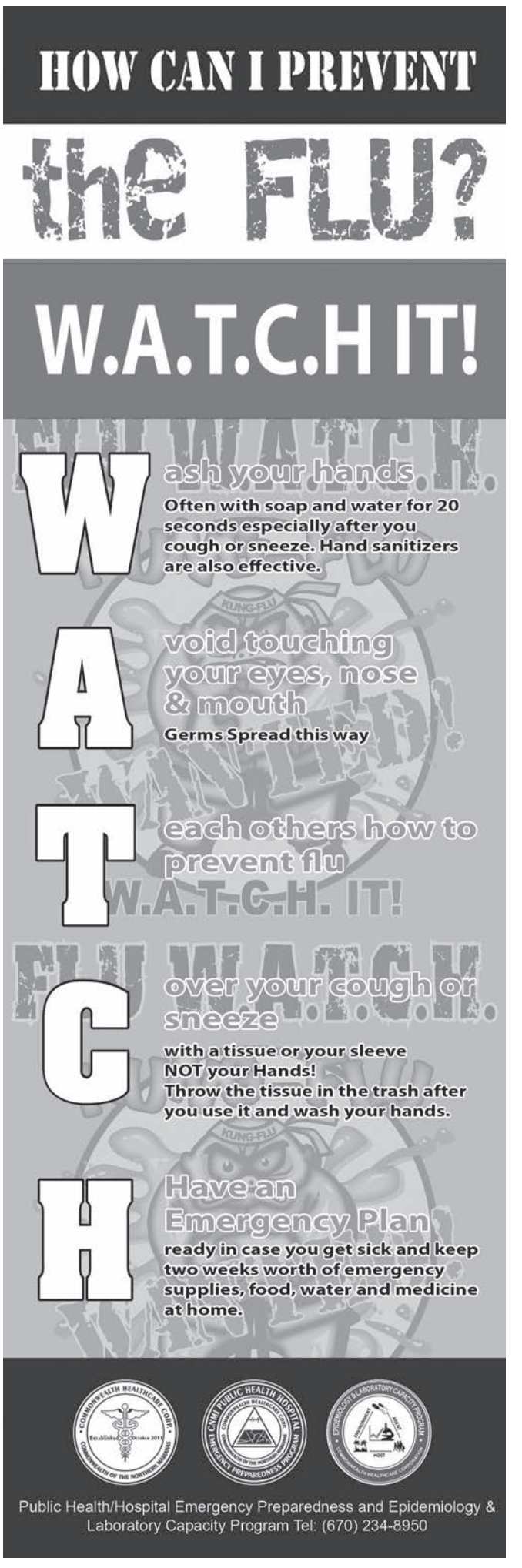
In addition to the informational booth, there was free balloons, a bounce house, an obstacle course, a spring cleaning table, bob-for-apples booth, selfies and group photos with the photo frame made by the Chacha woodworking students, books that were weeded out of the Kagman High Library collection. There were also raffle tickets for everyone participating in all of the school events throughout the year, which would earn them prizes.

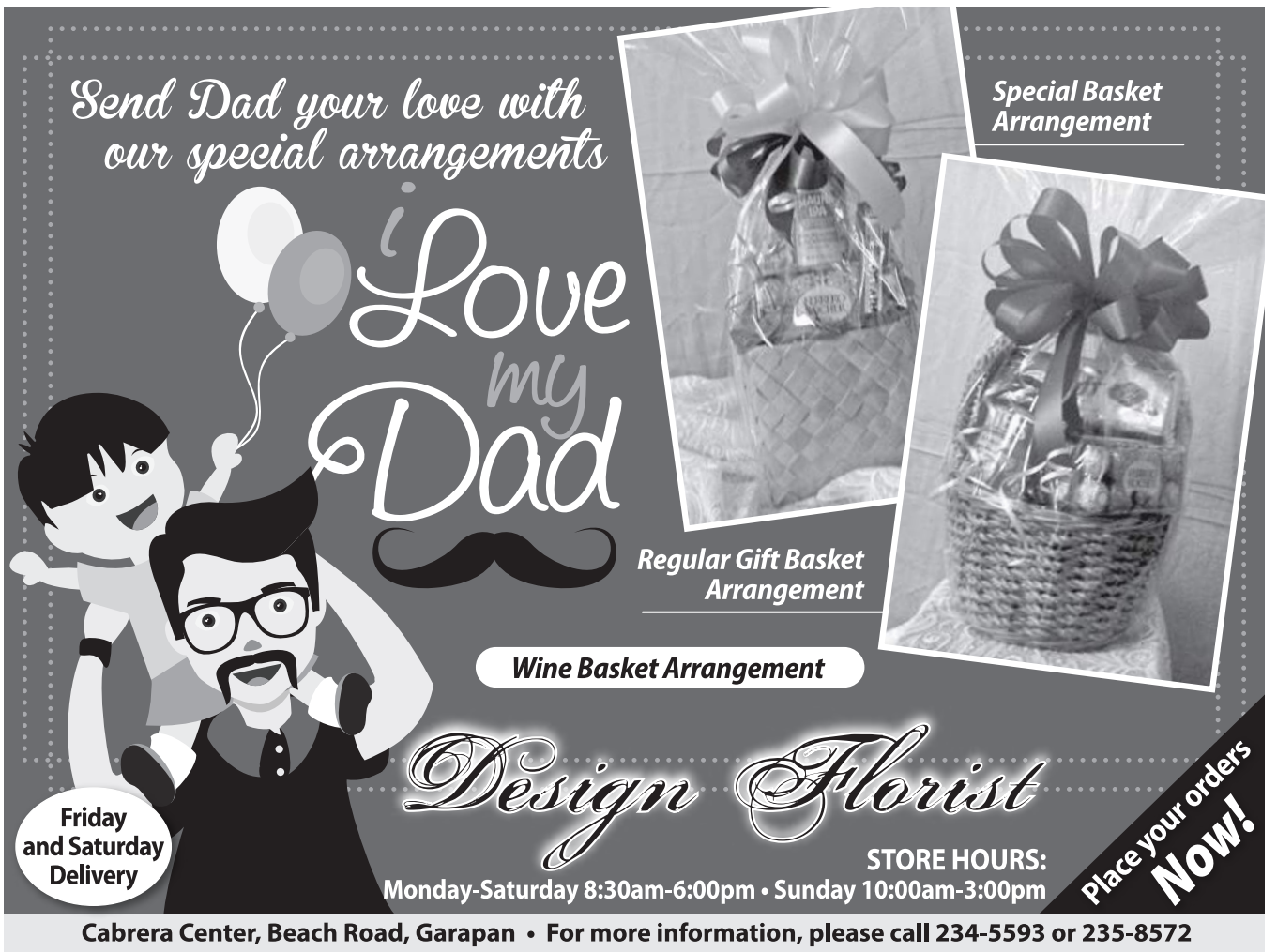
For the raffle, Kagman Elementary School donated sports equipment like soccer balls volleyballs and ping-pong sets. Kagman High School donated five Kindle Fires, purchased with education tax contribution donations. The Kagman High PTSA also purchased more than 20 gas vouchers from the Kagman mobil gas station for the raffle. Other prizes were donated by Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan.

The Immersion program also give away program T-shirts. Winners of the Kindle Fires were Bobby Kaipat, Turiana Welch, Mark Kaipat, Alvin Tudela, and Marsha Babauta.

Lunch was served around noon. Food was prepared by Laolao Bay Golf & Resort, the PTSA leadership and the Kagman schools' food vendor Kalayaan. ***(PR)***




HOW CAN I PREVENT
the FLU?
W.A.T.C.H IT!
W ash your hands
Often with soap and water for 20 seconds especially after you cough or sneeze. Hand sanitizers are also effective.
A void touching your eyes, nose & mouth
Germs Spread this way
T each others how to prevent flu
W.A.T.C.H. IT!
C over your cough or sneeze
with a tissue or your sleeve NOT your Hands!
Throw the tissue in the trash after you use it and wash your hands.
H Have an Emergency Plan
ready in case you get sick and keep two weeks worth of emergency supplies, food, water and medicine at home.
Public Health/Hospital Emergency Preparedness and Epidemiology & Laboratory Capacity Program Tel: (670) 234-8950


Send Dad your love with our special arrangements
I Love my Dad
Special Basket Arrangement
Regular Gift Basket Arrangement
Wine Basket Arrangement
Friday and Saturday Delivery
Design Florist
STORE HOURS:
Monday-Saturday 8:30am-6:00pm • Sunday 10:00am-3:00pm
Place your orders Now!
Cabrera Center, Beach Road, Garapan • For more information, please call 234-5593 or 235-8572

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXVIII, Issue No. 114

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EDITORIAL

Human toll of immigration dysfunction

Imagine you're Pablo Villavicencio-Calderon. You live with your wife and two young daughters in Hempstead, and you work at a pizza place in Queens. Last week, you set out for a routine delivery to the Fort Hamilton Army base in Brooklyn. Suddenly, the New York City ID card that seems to have been good enough before wasn't good enough this time, and you went through a base background check.

That was the beginning of the deportation case against Villavicencio-Calderon—a 35-year-old Ecuadorean national here illegally—who had reportedly delivered to the base before. The subsequent detention by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is an example of the arbitrary nature of our nation's immigration policy. He has no criminal record, according to ICE, but the check found that in 2010 Villavicencio-Calderon failed to comply with a voluntary deportation order. His wife and children are citizens, he has applied for a green card, and he has paid taxes, according to local officials who spoke with his wife.

His case underscores the human toll of a broken immigration system. For years, Congress has failed to fix it, while families like the deliveryman's suffer. Deporting a working father should not be the priority of ICE, and its actions signal that under President Donald Trump, law-abiding immigrants who have established roots in the community are not worthy of leniency. Meantime, no congressional grand bargain on immigration is in sight.

Villavicencio-Calderon's predicament screams for a more sane immigration system and relief for millions here without authorization and living productive lives. That's the only solution if you're troubled that a man like Villavicencio-Calderon sits in a detention center, and that another family is arbitrarily torn apart.

(c)2018 Newsday

A trade war is no way to treat our friends

President Donald Trump's mistaken assertion that Canada burned down the White House in 1814 is minor compared with his confusion over the trade relationship with our northern neighbor.

The president recently imposed sweeping tariffs on steel and aluminum imports, fulfilling a campaign promise. He claims these unfair trade practices cost American jobs and somehow create a national security risk by weakening producers. On Friday, he will face our angry allies at the G-7 conference in Quebec, a face-to-face battle in what could become a destructive trade war.

Let's hope Trump can get things straight. Almost 70 percent of the steel used in the United States already is produced here, and our nation can never be self-sufficient in aluminum production because the bauxite used to make the metal is not mined here. So Trump's national security justification is so laughable that Republicans who have been willing to stick by Trump through every other blunder are ready to work with Democrats to block these tariffs by holding military spending hostage. And experts say nearly all unfair

See TRADE on Next Page

The threat is over. We can come out of our homes now.
UNDOCUMENTED NYC PIZZA DELIVERYMAN FACES DEPORTATION
MARGULIES
©2018 on NEW YORK

What about our other nonviolent inmates, Mr. Trump?

By CLARENCE PAGE
Chicago Tribune

Clarence Page is a member of the Chicago Tribune Editorial Board. Readers may send him email at cpage@chicagotribune.com.

Well, what do you say when a couple of the world's most notorious, self-promoting products and exploiters of the reality TV world get together and do something undeniably nice?

Well, how about "Thank you"?

That's what I say to President Donald Trump and She-Who-Needs-No-Introduction Kim Kardashian.

As you've probably heard by now, the president granted clemency on Wednesday to Alice Marie Johnson, 63, a Tennessee grandmother who has spent the past 22 years serving a life sentence without parole for cocaine trafficking.

Unlike a full pardon, the commutation will not erase Johnson's conviction, but it will end her sentence.

Trump granted the clemency after hearing a plea from fellow reality TV star Kim in the Oval Office.

Is this legit? Yes. The pardon power belongs to whomever happens to be president. At present, that happens to be Trump.

Is Trump using Kardashian to polish his image among African-Americans, the hip-hop community and reality TV fans? Of course. Is anyone shocked by that notion? Pleasing constituents is what presidents and other politicians do.

But is that a reason for Trump to have refused her plea for clemency? Of course not. She has served more than two decades. That's a long time for a nonviolent drug offense. In the meantime, she became a model prisoner, according to various accounts. Her clemency should serve as an example to others of the possibilities that they, too, can be rehabilitated and redeemed.

Johnson, who became an ordained minister in prison and drew hundreds of thousands of signatures to a petition, has come a long way toward redemption. She was convicted in 1996 on eight criminal counts related to a Memphis-based cocaine trafficking operation. Her 1994 indictment describes dozens of deliveries and drug transactions, many involving her.

She was forced by economic hardship to turn to the drug trade, she claimed. She had kids and grandkids to fee. But federal courts, including the Supreme Court, rejected her appeals. Prosecutors opposed a motion to reduce her sentence, citing federal guidelines based on the large quantity of drugs involved.

President Barack Obama, who commuted the sentences of hundreds of federal inmates convicted of drug crimes, rejected clemency for her. Conscious of critics nipping at his heels, Obama scrupulously took his time with clemency or pardon requests. Trump relies on his instincts, turning the review process into another pseudo-reality TV show—"Celebrity Pardons," former Obama adviser David Axelrod calls it.

I can't say for certain that the lure of performing a good deed that Obama had not done gave Alice Johnson's clemency more appeal, as it apparently did for Jack Johnson's pardon. But I'm sure it didn't hurt her chances either.

Rather than criticize Trump's good deed, I encourage him to do more. Before Trump's election, reversing the 30-year explosion in our prison population was becoming a bipartisan issue. He could bring that back, if he wants to have a real impact on our criminal justice system.

For his humanitarian aid to Alice Johnson, Trump deserves credit. But he'll deserve even more credit when he does something to help the nation's other 576,000 prison inmates—39 percent of the nation's 1.46 million prison population—who experts at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU School of Law believe to be incarcerated with little public safety rationale.

That number—576,000—comes from a three-year study that the Brennan Center published in December, titled "How Many Americans Are Unnecessarily Incarcerated?" Releasing these inmates would save $20 billion annually, enough to employ 270,000 new police officers, 360,000 probation officers or 327,000 school teachers.

Conservatives want to save money. Liberals want to reverse the growth of mass incarceration and other forms of "slavery by another name," as some historians and civil rights activists call it, since Reconstruction. The elements of a compromise are there for a self-professed savvy dealmaker like Trump to cut a deal, if he wants to.

When Trump at Sylvester Stallone's suggestion pardoned the late African-American heavyweight boxing champion Jack Johnson, who had been convicted on racially loaded charges 105 years earlier, I was asked sarcastically by some pro-Trump readers, "Why don't you just say, 'Thank you'?"

I'm waiting, I responded, to see what the president does for black people who are still alive.

After Alice Johnson's clemency, I am now waiting to see what Trump will do to help other unnecessarily incarcerated, nonviolent offenders, even if they don't have a Hollywood celebrity on their side.

Anthony Bourdain and Kate Spade had it all—or so we thought

By LINDA STASI
New York Daily News

Having everything means nothing. Having every success you ever dreamed of means nothing. Having great wealth, fame and the freedom to do what the rest of the world only dreams about means nothing. Loving and being loved means nothing.

Is this what we learned this week when two of the most successful Americans, Kate Spade and now Anthony Bourdain—so familiar to us all that they were like friends we didn't know—killed themselves despite earning everything we have been taught to consider important?

Yes—for some.

What we learned for sure, and need to understand, is that depression is as real a disease as cancer—and can be as potentially lethal—even though sufferers often go to great lengths to hide it. You can't hide cancer for long. You CAN hide depression until it kills you.

Bourdain's friends, like many of Spade's friends, didn't see it coming.

"I was just speaking with him last week," said Sasquatch Fitness owner Claude Joly, who had met Bourdain at Renzo Gracie Academy where both practiced Brazilian jiu-jitsu. "All seemed very well."

"(Anthony) mentioned he was doing lots of traveling, but everything was good. Then again, I know he'd had a difficult life," Joly said. "Growing up, he abused drugs. But he cleaned himself up, and he was just a really nice guy."

Joly is in shock, as are all of Bourdain's friends and millions of fans who lived adventures around the world through him on CNN's hugely successful "Parts Unknown."

And perhaps that's what's hardest for all the rest of us to understand. How, if you've achieved the American dream and overcome the impossible, could you still be so unhappy that you would feel the need to end it all?

Both Bourdain and Spade had won honors from their peers and were shining examples for anyone aspiring to greatness in their respective fields. Each had gone through and overcome hard times and both talked about how we should never give up.

Until they both did.

Both Kate Spade and Anthony Bourdain had split from their spouses in recent years. Spade had been living apart from her husband and business partner, Andy, for 10 months, while Bourdain and his ex-wife Ottavia Busia, a chef and MMA fighter, broke up two years ago.

Both had daughters at the most vulnerable ages—11 and 13.

Kate had spiraled into depression before her husband had moved out—even though they still were together as a family for all intents and purposes. But she couldn't get past it and even left her young daughter a terrible suicide note implying the death wasn't the girl's fault, and telling to ask her father for an explanation.

Bourdain and his ex were also proud of keeping their family intact, even if their marriage wasn't.

Though Spade couldn't move on, Bourdain—who'd had what his ex called "a very unconventional marriage"—had found love with another Italian, actress Asia Argento. In fact, just a few weeks ago Bourdain and Argento posted loving selfies with each other on their Instagram accounts.

His read, "Just a perfect day. You made me forget myself."

He forgot himself perhaps, but he apparently couldn't forget his pain—whatever that pain was that drove him, like Spade, to kill himself.

And like Spade, Bourdain reportedly hanged himself and was also found by his best friend—Spade by her housekeeper and best friend, Bella Cariaga, and Bourdain by his dear friend, French chef Eric Ripert.

Both of these bright and shining stars were also deeply loved by those closest to them. Thing is, for those suffering from the demons of depression, including the brightest and most accomplished among us, sometimes love isn't all you need.

Beauty pageants should die out like the dinosaurs they are

By TRICIA BISHOP
The Baltimore Sun

Tricia Bishop is The Baltimore Sun*'s deputy editorial page editor.*

In an apparent effort to head off #MeToo backlash or simply appear relevant, the Miss America Organization announced this week that contestants can now keep their clothes on during the competition and that they "will no longer be judged by outward physical appearance." They're not even part of a beauty pageant, anymore, but "a new generation of female leaders focused on scholarship, social impact, talent, and empowerment."

That means swimsuits are out and the evening wear segment isn't about the gown but the wearer's strategy to "advance their social impact initiatives," which she will discuss, presumably, after striding confidently across a stage in heels and sequins.

It all feels a little like when Playboy announced it would stop publishing photos of naked women. That pledge lasted exactly one year. Why? Because it's a nudie magazine. That's its thing. Sure, it had some great interviews, but nobody really picked it up because Steve Jobs was in the February 1985 issue—just like nobody tuned in to Miss America because the parent organization gives out scholarship money and puts the winner to work for a year.

People watched because it's a beauty pageant—one arena that's always been refreshingly honest about its objectification of women. Unlike the workplace, where it's often popular to pretend women aren't treated like toys, beauty pageants proudly run with the idea. They dress them up, rate their parts, pit them against one another and then plop a crown on the winner's head to make it official: She's a pretty, pretty princess and an ideal to which we should all aspire, either to be or to have sex with.

That doesn't mean Miss America hasn't done some good over the years, promoting service to others, launching entertainment careers, and giving the young and good looking (oppressed as they are) opportunities they might otherwise not get. But those things are secondary to the pageantry.

And of course, it's also done quite a bit of damage: promoting eating disorders, misogyny and, historically, racism. Heck, in December, Miss America's CEO was forced to resign after it was revealed he had called participants fat, gross and c-words.

But this is an organization "working to empower young women," right?

Instead of trying to change its spots, Miss America and other organizations like it—Miss Universe, for example, which includes the Miss U.S.A. and Miss Teen U.S.A. pageants—should die a proper death like the dinosaurs they are.

Miss America started in 1921 as a marketing ploy—a "popularity contest" held by newspapers, I'm chagrined to admit, to increase their circulations. And it continued as moneymaker, for mostly men, for decades, despite protests by women's groups and others through the years.

But there's really no excuse for such pageants anymore, whether or not they acknowledge they're a pageant. The momentum of the #MeToo and Time's Up movements makes that crystal clear. It's frankly shocking they've lasted so long. (But then again, I was shocked Donald Trump—who co-owned the Miss Universe Organization for 20 years—was elected president, so perhaps I'm just naive.)

Of course, ending pageants doesn't mean women won't continue to be inappropriately judged on their appearance or that we'll suddenly value brains over beauty as a society. But it would send a signal that women are at least respected a step above livestock and it's not OK to openly rate us. Baby steps.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Congratulations!

Congratulations Dolores Pangelinan Kiyoshi on your promotion to command sergeant major. Even though thirty years ago some people counseled you to not enlist, you trusted your own mind about yourself and your role in life. And, even though you did not intend to become a role model for other Tinian women you actually are inspiration for local females - mothers, wives, daughters - to re-think their roles in how to best guide our islands' future.

John and Yasuko Joyner
Kagman 3, Saipan

TRADE

From Page 10

dumping on the metals market is done by China, not Canada, Mexico and Europe.

Enraged, our trading partners in North America, Europe and Japan say they will respond to our tariffs by levying their own on a wide range of goods and services produced in the United States. Such a trade war would make products from other countries more expensive for U.S. consumers and products from America more expensive in other countries. Americans would face job losses and higher prices.

Trump is right to assail China for unfair trade, but doing the same with our closest allies is a mistake. It will cost this nation the trust of its friends—without gaining it a thing.

(c)2018 Newsday

Growing Older Norms, Knowing Older Forms

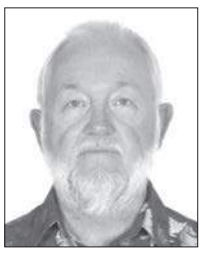
» A Boomer sonnet about aging complications, cosmological creations, and musical elations.

"Antiquitas saeculi, Juventus mundi. The old age of the world… is the attribute of our own times, not of that earlier age in which the ancients lived; and which, though in respect of us it was the elder, yet in respect of the world it was younger."

—Aphorism 84, Novum Organum, Francis Bacon
English philosopher, scientist (b.1561- d.1626)

LITERARY NOOK
By JOEY 'PEPE BATBON' CONNOLLY
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Joey "Pepe Batbon" Connolly is a retired teacher and poet living on Tinian who taught English in CNMI public schools for the past 30 years. He has also taught in Alaska, New Orleans, and Las Vegas.



Sophomoric Sass About our Time to Pass

I was washing the early evening pots and dinner dishes
not thinking about anything special or bucket list wishes
and I got to thinking about what in life comes next
what do I need to know about those next tomorrows
could I find some answers to that in any given text
why not just accept all the joys and upcoming sorrows
what about all the other more problematic personal stuff
how to deal with and face it whatever you want to call it
how much false bravado, who wants to hear my guff
death is on the horizon coming closer you can't stall it
not many seasons longer not too many summers left
winter snows color white my beard and hairs on my head
Grandfather Time is always successful with life theft
no way to deny it sooner or later we will all be dead.

Well at sixty-eight I'm not growing bolder
my knees prevent a lot of get up and boogie
I don't need a cold beer to be any colder
gotta slow down on just one more cookie.

However, knowing about certain older things is great
learning about particle physics and quantum theory
no problem if I forget the years since Big Bang's date
about distant stars and light years I constantly query.

Older music, European Renaissance through to Baroque
older musical instruments: strings, woodwinds, and brass
relax, tranquillize, sedate and prevent me having a stroke
provide daily and nightly company with my parting glass.

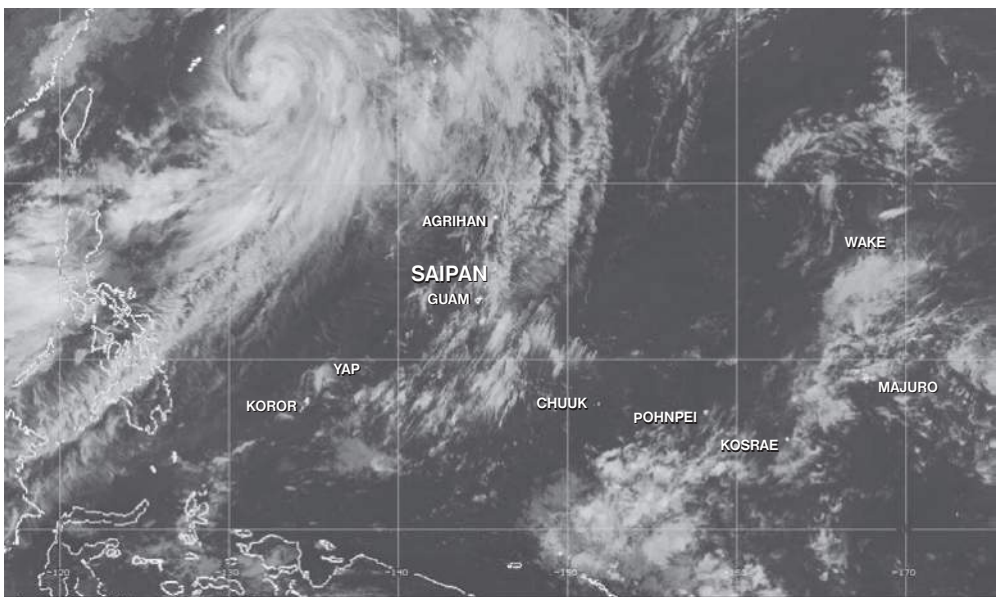
My short-term memory is increasing, seems to never fail
but I don't remember that as through new knowing I sail.

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. Light and variable winds.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 11:46 AM, SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough, currently located to near 155E, is moving toward the Marianas. This trough is expected to bring scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms to the islands this evening and continue through Monday night. Models are now trending toward drier conditions moving in a bit earlier, possibly Monday afternoon, but decided to leave scattered showers in through Monday night for now. For the remainder of the week, expect a dry trade wind pattern to return, with only partly cloudy skies and a few showers into next weekend.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	88° / 80°
Palau	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	84° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Rain	61° / 55°
Beijing	Sunny	93° / 66°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	90° / 81°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 75°
London	Thunderstorm	73° / 55°
Los Angeles	Sunny	82° / 63°
Manila	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Melbourne	Rain	55° / 45°
Miami	Thunderstorm	83° / 77°
New York	Mostly Sunny	72° / 60°
Osaka	Showers	79° / 66°
Paris	Showers	73° / 57°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	72° / 63°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 66°
Salem	Sunny	92° / 69°
San Francisco	Sunny	67° / 53°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	79° / 59°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	77° / 66°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	74° / 63°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS
Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:53 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.99
11:57 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.02
6:29 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.74
11:53 PM	LOW TIDE	0.91

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:46 AM	6:46 PM
Tuesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Wednesday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Thursday	5:46 AM	6:47 PM
Friday	5:46 AM	6:48 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	3:19 AM	4:07 PM	-
Tuesday	4:07 AM	5:07 PM	-
Wednesday	4:59 AM	6:10 PM	-
Thursday	5:56 AM	7:14 PM	-
Friday	6:58 AM	8:17 PM	-

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 6, 2018

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	8:45am	9:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA117	7:00am	7:45am	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

Xi extolls free trade at Asia meet as G-7 ends in disarray

QINGDAO, China (AP)—Chinese President Xi Jinping extolled free trade and criticized "selfish, short-sighted" policies during a closely orchestrated gathering of a Beijing-led bloc Sunday, standing in stark contrast with the G-7 summit that ended in disarray over trade tensions.

"We should reject selfish, short-sighted, narrow and closed-off policies. We must maintain the rules of the World Trade Organization, support the multilateral trade system and build an open global economy," Xi said. Though his remarks did not mention President Donald Trump, Beijing has sought to portray itself as a defender of free trade in response to the American leader's support for import controls. This is despite China's status as the most-closed major economy.

Xi also hailed the entry of new members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, calling the presence of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain "of great historic significance" in opening remarks at this weekend's summit of in the northern Chinese port of Qingdao. Their two South Asian nations joined the bloc as full members last year.

With tight security, closed roads and restricted press access, the summit's choreographed show of unity was a striking contrast to the tumultuous Group of Seven summit of leading industrialized nations that concluded Saturday in Quebec and saw the U.S. and its allies divided by escalating trade tensions.

Trump lashed out at Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau in an extraordinary set of tweets from Air Force One, calling him "dishonest & weak" and retracting the U.S. endorsement of the G-7 summit's communique.

AP

Journalists film a screen at the media center broadcasting live of Chinese President Xi Jinping, second from right, appear with Russian President Vladimir Putin, center, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi, left, and other leaders of member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) at the summit in Qingdao in eastern China's Shandong Province, Sunday, June 10, 2018.

The Beijing-led bloc, which experts see as seeking to challenge the Western-led order, is dominated by China and Russia and also includes Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Tajikistan. Founded in 2001, it was originally conceived as a vehicle for resolving border issues, fighting terrorism, and — more implicitly — to counter American influence in Central Asia following its invasion of Afghanistan.

The summit comes as Russia and China have boosted ties in response to the U.S. national security strategy that describes them as America's top adversaries.

"We should reject the Cold War mentality and confrontation between blocks," Xi said, adding that the countries should "oppose the practices of seeking absolute security of oneself at the expense of the security of other countries."

In recent years, the Shanghai bloc's economic component has grown more prominent, embodied in Xi's signature, trillion-dollar foreign policy and infrastructure drive known as the Belt and Road Initiative.

Xi announced that China would offer 30 billion yuan ($4.7 billion) in loans through the bloc, highlighting its economic aspect.

Beijing's infrastructure projects in Central Asia make some in the bloc uncomfortable—particularly India, which alone among members has refused to endorse the program. Russia, too, is wary of China's expanding influence, and though it has somewhat reluctantly embraced the Belt and Road, it is also seeking to expand its own economic and political leverage in the region through a customs union it dominates known as the Eurasian Economic Union.

China has sought to downplay concerns that the Shanghai grouping is a way for Beijing to project its strategic influence abroad. The Global Times, a Communist Party newspaper, said Sunday in a commentary that unlike Western organizations like NATO and the G-7, which seek to "consolidate the global economic order that is favorable to the Western world," the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is inclusive.

It is "is not a tool for geopolitical games, seeking hegemony or engaging in international confrontation," the paper said.

As trade tensions simmered between China and the U.S. in recent months, Beijing has drawn closer to Moscow and New Delhi.

On Friday, Xi presented Russian President Vladimir Putin China's first Friendship Medal at an elaborate ceremony in Beijing.

On Saturday, Xi met Modi for the second time in two months, signing deals on the export of non-basmati rice and sharing information on the waters of the Brahmaputra River, which runs between China and India, according to tweets by spokesperson of the Indian Ministry of External Affairs Raveesh Kumar.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Salmonella linked to pre-cut melon sickens 60 in Midwest

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP)—Health officials say a salmonella outbreak linked to pre-cut melon has sickened 60 people in five Midwestern states. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says Caito Foods LLC on Friday recalled pre-cut watermelon, honeydew melon, cantaloupe and fruit medleys containing at least one of those melons that were produced at its facility in Indianapolis. It says the five states where people were sickened are Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri and Ohio. The CDC says the fruit was also distributed to stores in Georgia, Kentucky and North Carolina. It was sold in clear plastic clamshell containers at Costco, Jay C, Kroger, Payless, Owen's, Sprouts, Trader Joe's, Walgreens, Walmart and Whole Foods/Amazon. Officials say people should throw away or return recalled products.

Unorthodox Trump faces toughest test yet in NKorea summit

SINGAPORE (AP)—President Donald Trump's seat-of-the-pants foreign policy is facing its toughest test yet as he attempts this week to personally broker an end to North Korea's nuclear program with Kim Jong Un. Trump is calling it a "mission of peace." The impulsive American president, who over the weekend called into doubt a pillar of the Western alliance, is set to face his match on the global stage as he prepares to meet Kim in Singapore. In the historic first meeting between the leaders of the technically-still-warring nations, Trump is prioritizing instinct over planning. Unlike traditional summits between heads of state, where most of the work is completed in advance of a photo-op, U.S. officials say the only thing certain ahead of these talks will be their unpredictability.

Louisiana awarded $45M grant for tunnel, bridge replacement

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP)—Louisiana is receiving a $45 million federal grant to help build a fixed, four-lane toll bridge that will replace a tunnel and movable bridge in the southeastern end of the state. Gov. John Bel Edwards says the U.S. Department of Transportation approved the grant application for the bridge replacement in Belle Chasse. The decades-old bridge and tunnel are the primary access point to residents and businesses in Plaquemines Parish. Supporters of the new bridge say it will help improve commute times. To pay for the rest of the replacement work, the Edwards administration will use $38 million in other federal funds and dollars from a public-private partnership. A private company will put up cash and collect tolls paid by motorists using the bridge under a contractual arrangement with the state.

Justice Department move on health law has risks for GOP

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Trump administration's decision to stop defending in court the Obama health law's popular protections for consumers with pre-existing conditions could prove risky for Republicans in the midterm elections—and nudge premiums even higher.

The Justice Department said in a court filing late Thursday that it will no longer defend key parts of the Affordable Care Act, beginning with the unpopular requirement that people carry health insurance, but also including widely-supported provisions that guarantee access for people with medical problems and limit what insurers can charge older, sicker adults.

Friday, the insurance industry warned in stark terms of "harm that would come to millions of Americans" if such protections are struck down, causing premiums "to go even higher for older Americans and sicker patients."

Weighing in on a Texas challenge to the health law, the Justice Department argued that legally and practically the popular consumer protections cannot be separated from the unpopular insurance mandate, which Congress has repealed, effective next year.

That argument is likely to be lost on consumers, said Robert Blendon, a polling expert at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health—particularly in the heat of an election that will determine control of Congress.

"The pre-existing condition thing is what the ads will be run on," said Blendon. "Pre-existing conditions have gotten to be an issue that people walking on the streets understand ... it's very emotional."

Some Democratic politicians didn't waste much time.

"Democrats will not allow Republicans to get away with quietly trying to strip away pre-existing conditions protections for millions of Americans through a legal backdoor," said Rep. Frank Pallone, D-N.J., a spokesman for his party on health care.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer of New York urged President Donald Trump to reverse the decision.

Administration officials at the departments of Health and Human Services and Treasury would not comment, instead pointing to the Justice Department filing, which said other parts of the health law would continue to stand, including its Medicaid expansion covering about 12 million low-income people. HHS and Treasury administer the health law's coverage and subsidies.

Loosening the health law's rules on pre-existing conditions and on charging more to older adults is a key goal for the Trump administration. Partly that's because those consumer protections also raise premiums across the board, as the cost of covering the sick is spread among all customers, including healthier people who previously benefited from lower rates.

Indeed, people who pay the full cost of their individual health plans and aren't eligible for subsidies under the health law have been clamoring for relief from several years of double-digit premium increases.

Economist Gail Wilensky, who's advised Republicans, said she's not sure about the timing of the administration's action.

Nation

Federal judge temporarily blocks deportation of pizza worker

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge on Saturday temporarily blocked the deportation of a New York pizza shop worker to his native Ecuador after he was arrested while making a delivery to a Brooklyn Army base.

Attorneys for The Legal Aid Society obtained the temporary stay for Pablo Villavicencio after a hearing in Manhattan federal court.

The 35-year-old married father of two young girls was arrested on June 1 while making a delivery to the garrison in Fort Hamilton. A routine background check revealed there was a warrant for his arrest for immigration law violations.

Federal Judge Alison Nathan granted the stay until July 20. Villavicencio will remain in Immigration and Customs Enforcement custody in New Jersey until his case goes to court.

New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo had asked federal homeland security officials to look into the case, saying recent detentions raise significant legal questions.

In a letter to the ICE office in New York, the Democrat said Villavicencio's "expedited removal serves no legitimate public safety purpose and the circumstances leading to his arrest and detention raise serious legal and policy concerns."

Villavicencio's wife, Sandra Chica, is an American citizen and their daughters, ages 2 and 3, were born in the U.S.

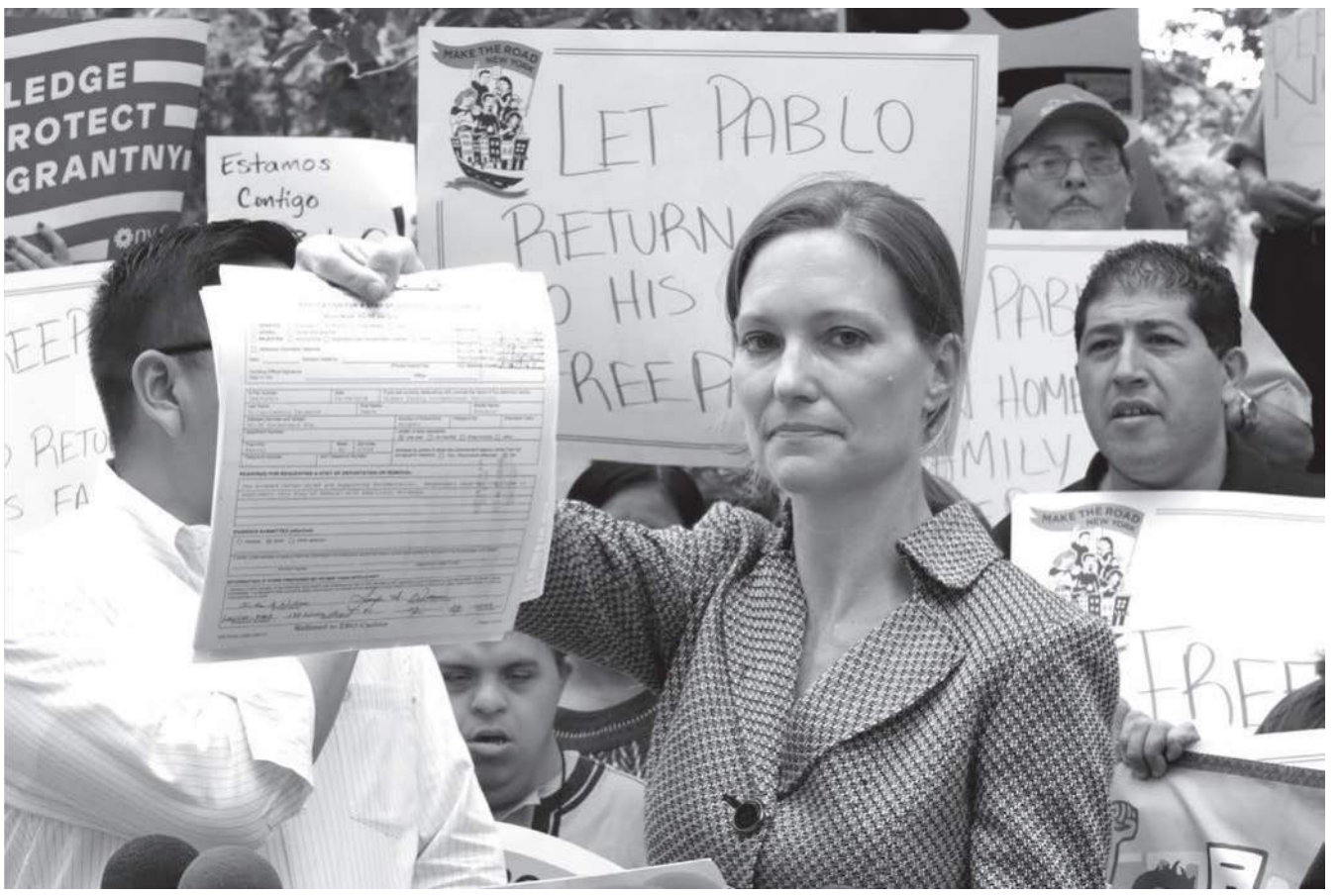
When he arrived at Fort Hamilton, guards requested identification and he produced a city identification card. A background check showed that Villavicencio had been ordered to leave the United States in 2010, but stayed.

Redmond Haskins, a spokesman for The Legal Aid Society, a not-for-profit organization that provides free services to clients who cannot afford them, said Villavicencio has no criminal record.

Haskins said attorneys worked through the night preparing the emergency stay request that was argued in court on Saturday afternoon.

"Although we are disappointed that Pablo will remained detained, today's stay is a victory for him and his family, and also for due process and the fair administration of justice," said Gregory Copeland, the supervising attorney of Legal Aid's Immigration Law Unit. "This decision is also a reminder that the judiciary can still serve as a powerful check when other branches of government make hasty, cruel and reckless decisions."

The attorneys said they will work with Villavicencio to help him secure valid immigration status.



AP

Legal Aid Society lawyer Jennifer WIlliams, who represents Ecuadorean restaurant worker Pablo Villavicencio, shows the Application for Stay of Deportation or Removal she filed at the offices of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement, in New York, Friday, June 8, 2018.

Florida stopped doing gun permit checks for more than a year

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)—For more than a year, Florida failed to do national background checks that could have disqualified people from gaining a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

The lapse, revealed in an internal report that was not widely known about until Friday, occurred during a time period when there was a significant surge in the number of people seeking permission to legally carry a concealed weapon. Florida does not allow the open carry of weapons, but more than 1.9 million have permits to carry guns and weapons in public if they are concealed.

The state ultimately revoked 291 permits and fired an employee blamed for the lapse after an inspector general's report detailing the problem was sent in June 2017 to top officials in the department who oversee the program. The Tampa Bay Times was the first to publish information about the report, which pointed out that the state failed to check the National Instant Criminal Background Check System from February 2016 to March 2017.

Agriculture Commissioner Adam Putnam, a Republican running for governor who has touted his efforts to make it easier for people to obtain concealed-weapons permits, said the state did conduct its own criminal background checks on those applying for permits during that time period.

Putnam blamed the problem on the negligence of a department employee.

"The former employee was both deceitful and negligent, and we immediately launched an investigation and implemented safeguards to ensure this never happens again," Putnam said in a statement.

McKinley Lewis, a spokesman for Republican Gov. Rick Scott, said the governor's office was never provided a copy of the inspector general's report.

Democrats and gun control advocates quickly criticized Putnam over the incident and said he should resign. Putnam has raised the ire of gun control advocates for his proclamation last year that he was a "proud NRA sellout" who supports the National Rifle Association. He also said that he would not have signed the new gun and school safety law enacted by the Florida Legislature in the aftermath of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland.

"Career politicians like Mr. Putnam think this is just another bad day at the office—but when you conceal a level of negligence that endangers every resident, and every child, in Florida, you forfeit any moral right to lead," said former Miami Beach Mayor Philip Levine, one of the Democratic candidates running for governor.

The state used the national system to see if there were reasons such as mental illness or drug addictions that should prevent someone from being issued a concealed-weapons permit. But in March 2017 an investigation was triggered after a state employee noted that the state was not getting any correspondence from people whose applications had been rejected due to information gleaned from the national database.

The final report issued in June 2017 states that an employee in the Division of Licensing did not run applications through the national system because she couldn't log into the database. The employee is quoted in the report as saying that she "dropped the ball."

The Times interviewed the employee, Lisa Wilde, who told them she was working in the mailroom when she was given oversight of the database in 2013.

"I didn't understand why I was put in charge of it," Wilde told the newspaper.

Statistics compiled by the department show that from the summer of 2015 to the summer of 2017, the number of new applications for concealed-weapon permits jumped dramatically, to its highest level in 25 years.

ACROSS THE NATION

US says immigrant dies of 'apparent suicide' in Texas jail

HOUSTON (AP)—U.S. authorities have confirmed that a Honduran man was found dead in a Texas jail cell of an "apparent suicide" last month, but made no mention of details in a Washington Post report that the man was enraged after his wife and son were separated from him. U.S. Customs and Border Protection issued a statement Saturday confirming the death of Marco Antonio Munoz. The CBP statement says Munoz was apprehended at the Weslaco, Texas, border station on May 11 and transferred to the Rio Grande Valley immigration processing center. The Post report, citing unnamed Border Patrol agents, said he was with his wife and 3-year-old son and separated from them, but the federal statement made no mention of family members.. The statement says that while Munoz was being processed, he "became disruptive and combative" and was transferred to the Starr County jail. He was found unresponsive in his cell on May 13.

Helicopter crashes into Wisconsin river, killing 1 man

OSHKOSH, Wis. (AP)—A helicopter hit power lines and plunged into the Fox River in eastern Wisconsin Saturday, killing one man. The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office says the helicopter went down near the Wisconsin Street Bridge in Oshkosh, 94 miles (151 kilometers) north of Milwaukee after it hit the electrical wires. Winnebago County Sheriff's Capt. Lara Vendola-Messer said special equipment had to be brought in by Wisconsin Public Service to help remove the electrical lines from the water. Divers then entered the water and the helicopter was lifted to the surface Saturday evening. A photograph showed the frame collapsed and the tail broken. The Oshkosh Northwestern later reported that the Winnebago County Coroner's office confirmed one man died in the crash. His name was not released. Gary Lemiesz, of Oshkosh, said that he watched as helicopter flew east over the Fox River before turning back and flying west. He said it struck the wires and part of the propeller broke off, after which "it hit hard and sunk."

Searchers find body of woman attacked by gator in Florida

DAVIE, Fla. (AP)—State wildlife searchers located the body of a woman believed to have been killed during an alligator attack in South Florida. The body of 47-year-old Shizuka Matsuki was found in a lake in Davie, Florida, officials with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission said late Friday. A witness told authorities he saw the woman walking two dogs Friday and then noticed the dogs alone, barking near the water. One of the dogs had a fresh injury, a gash on its side. Officials captured and killed an alligator later Friday and found evidence during a necropsy of the animal that it had bitten Matsuki. "We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Matsuki," conservation commission spokesman Rob Klepper said in a statement. Alligators are opportunistic feeders that will eat what is readily available and easily overpowered. Feeding wild alligators is illegal because they could lose their fear of humans.

Asia

Unorthodox Trump faces toughest test yet in N. Korea summit

SINGAPORE (AP)—Embarking on a self-described "mission of peace," President Donald Trump's seat-of-the-pants foreign policy is facing its toughest test yet as he attempts this week to personally broker an end to North Korea's nuclear program with Kim Jong Un.

The impulsive American president, who just days earlier called into doubt a pillar of the Western alliance, is set to face his match on the global stage as he prepares to meet Kim in Singapore. In the historic first meeting between the leaders of the technically-still-warring nations, Trump is prioritizing instinct over planning. Unlike traditional summits between heads of state, where most of the work is completed in advance of a photo-op, U.S. officials say the only thing certain ahead of these talks will be their unpredictability.

Ever since Trump shocked allies, White House officials, and, by some accounts, the North Koreans themselves when he accepted Kim's March invitation for a meeting, the two leaders have lurched toward an uncertain encounter that may well determine the fate of millions.

"It's unknown territory in the truest sense, but I really feel confident," Trump told reporters Saturday. "I feel that Kim Jong Un wants to do something great for his people and he has that opportunity and he won't have that opportunity again."

Trump's engagement with Kim fulfills the North Korean ruling family's long-unrequited yearning for international legitimacy, itself a substantial concession that could weaken more than a generation of U.S. efforts to isolate the country on the global stage.

"It's never been done before," Trump said Saturday. "And obviously, what has been done before hasn't worked."

AP

In this June 7, 2018, file photo, President Donald Trump, center left, welcomes Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, center right, to the White House in Washington. North Korea's East Asia neighbors — Japan, China and South Korea — have a shared goal of denuclearizing the peninsula, but what may come out of Tuesday, June 12, 2018's summit in Singapore between President Donald Trump and North Korea's Kim Jong Un has different and possibly conflicting implications for their security, economic and geopolitical interests.

A triumvirate of forces is bringing the meeting to fruition, said Scott Snyder, Senior Fellow for Korea Studies and Director of the Program on U.S.-Korea Policy at the Council on Foreign Relations, describing the summit as "Produced by Kim, directed by (South Korean President Moon Jae-in), and inspired by Trump."

The hard-hitting sanctions and desire for legitimacy brought the youthful Kim to the table. The South Korean leader's efforts to avert a potentially catastrophic U.S. first strike pushed both leaders to take a risk. And Trump is the first U.S. president willing to sit-down with the autocratic ruler with so few concessions, believing his self-professed negotiating prowess will guide him though uncharted diplomatic waters.

Raising expectations in advance of the meeting, Trump said the outcome will rely heavily on his own instincts. The U.S. president, who prides himself on his deal-making prowess, said he will know "within the first minute" of meeting Kim whether the North Korean leader is serious about the nuclear negotiations.

"I think I'll know pretty quickly whether or not, in my opinion, something positive will happen. And if I think it won't happen, I'm not going to waste my time. I don't want to waste his time," Trump said.

"This is a leader who really is an unknown personality," Trump added of Kim. "People don't know much about him. I think that he's going to surprise on the upside, very much on the upside."

White House aides described Trump in the days after receiving the initial Kim invitation as being obsessed by visions of winning the Nobel Peace Prize and using 'The Art of the Deal' to put his mark on the global order. In recent weeks Trump's enthusiasm has been tempered somewhat by the challenge of deal-making with such an unpredictable opponent. And there are worries from the White House to East Asian allies that Trump's desire for an agreement will lead him to accept any deal — even if it's a bad one.

Trump is set to dangle before Kim visions of protection, economic investment, and even a White House visit, in return for a commitment to abandon his nuclear weapons program. Kim, U.S. officials say, has agreed to put his stockpile of a half-hundred or more weapons on the table for negotiation, but the two countries have offered differing visions of what that would entail. Despite Kim's apparent eagerness for a summit with Trump, there are doubts that he would fully relinquish his nuclear arsenal, which he may see as his guarantor of his survival.

U.S. defense and intelligence officials have assessed the North to be on the threshold of having the capability to strike anywhere in the continental U.S. with a nuclear-tipped missile — a capacity that Trump and other U.S. officials have said they would not tolerate.

Trump reiterated his promise Saturday that the U.S. "will watch over and we'll protect" Kim and his government in return for him giving up the nuclear program.

Traveling to Singapore, Trump is looking to temporarily escape his flaring personal conflicts with key U.S. allies over trade as well as domestic pressure like the swirling Russia probe. Acutely aware of his coverage in the media, Trump has enjoyed how North Korea has overshadowed some of the more negative coverage of his tumultuous White House.

Luxury resort chosen for summit

The White House has reported the location of the summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. The June 12 meeting will be at the Capella Hotel, a luxury resort on Sentosa Island in Singapore.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Knife attack on Japan bullet train leaves 1 dead, 2 hurt

TOKYO (AP)—A knife attack on a Japanese bullet express train near Tokyo left one passenger dead and two others injured, police said Sunday, as they arrested a suspect who was on top of a man lying unconscious. Police said they apprehended Ichiro Kojima, 22, after the train made an unscheduled stop late Saturday at Odawara station west of Tokyo following an emergency call that there was a knife-wielding man. The Nozomi train was heading to Osaka from Tokyo. Kojima was on top of a man lying unconscious on the floor of the isle with a knife stuck in his thigh when officers arrived, police said. The 38-year-old victim was also stabbed in the neck and was later pronounced dead. Odawara police official Satoshi Oiye said the suspect admitted to police that he had attacked the passengers. Police are continuing to investigate his motives, Oiye said. Japanese media reported that Kojima said he made the assaults because he was irritated and felt like attacking anyone. Oiye said investigators also found a machete believed to be belonging to the suspect at the stabbing scene, though it was not known how it was used. Police said two female passengers in their 20s were injured in the neck and other parts of their bodies, though their conditions were not life-threatening.

Former Pakistan dictator Musharraf to run for parliament

ISLAMABAD (AP)—The party of Pakistan's former military dictator Pervez Musharraf announced Saturday that he will run for a seat in parliament in July 25 national elections. The move comes after the country's Supreme Court conditionally allowed Musharraf to return from Dubai, where he has been living in self-exile to avoid arrest on criminal charges. Musharraf's party said he will campaign for a seat representing the northern town of Chitral. Also on Saturday, the party of popular longtime opposition politician Imran Khan said he will run for a seat in the National Assembly, which was dissolved May 31 upon completing its five-year term. Khan is seeking to become the next prime minister. Khan's party is expected to face a tough challenge from candidates backed by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who was disqualified from holding office in July by the Supreme Court on corruption charges. The party of former President Asif Ali Zardari is also fielding candidates across the country in hopes of getting a majority in parliament. Zardari has said he will run for a seat representing southern Sindh province. The July 25 elections for seats in the National Assembly and four provincial legislatures will be supervised by the interim government of caretaker Prime Minister Nasir-ul-Mulk, a former chief justice who has said he will ensure free and fair elections.

PH police arrest nearly 500 in alleged online fraud

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine police arrested nearly 500 people, including eight Israeli nationals, who they say were involved in an online investment fraud that victimized people overseas, including in Australia and South Africa, police said Thursday.

In one of the Philippines' biggest anti-cybercrime busts in years, police chief Oscar Albayalde said 474 Filipino employees and the Israelis were taken into custody following the raid on three buildings in Clark Freeport, a former U.S. Air Force base north of Manila, where the alleged online fraud was committed.

The suspects lured victims into investing in foreign stocks in a purportedly flourishing London-based company then took their money through an online app after obtaining their bank account and credit card details, said Chief Superintendent Marni Marcos, who heads the national police Anti-Cybercrime Group.

The Israeli men were arrested "while in the act of managing, operating and manning the three target buildings" while the Filipinos were caught communicating and doing online transactions with foreign clients from Europe, New Zealand, Australia, South Africa and Russia, Albayalde said in a statement.

Police video shows officers with assault rifles, backed by special forces units, barging into a vast office and repeatedly yelling "Hands up!" while ordering some of the suspects not to touch their computers. Some of the Israelis could be seen being led away in handcuffs.

Police seized evidence from the computers showing they were "engaged in a fraudulent online trading activity that involves millions of U.S. dollars victimizing other foreign nationals all over the world," Albayalde said. State prosecutors were assessing criminal complaints against the suspects.

Some foreign victims traveled to the Philippines and reported to the police details of the alleged fraud after obtaining information from some disgruntled syndicate members, Marcos told reporters.

World

Rare tensions between Assad's backers as Syria's war unwinds

BEIRUT (AP)—A Russian force deployment on the Syria-Lebanon border this week in a Hezbollah stronghold sparked protests by the Lebanese militant group, prompting the force to withdraw from its positions only a day later in a rare sign of tension between the allies.

The Russian move was not expected as Moscow's military police have been deploying in areas controlled by Syrian government forces and close to insurgent positions. The outskirts of the Syrian town of Qusair where the Russian troops set up three observation positions on Monday have been held by Hezbollah and Syrian troops since 2013, when they drove rebels from the area.

The Russian deployment and subsequent withdrawal shows that as rebels are being defeated in different parts of Syria, frictions could rise between Assad's main foreign backers—Russia and Iran—and the militias Tehran backs throughout Syria.

AP

Hezbollah supporters hold a picture of Syrian President Bashar Assad as they listen to Hezbollah leader Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, who delivers a speech through a giant TV screen from a secret place, during a rally to mark al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day, at the village of Maroun el-Rass on the Lebanon-Israel border, south Lebanon, Friday, June 8, 2018.

"They came and deployed without coordination," said an official with the so-called "Axis of Resistance" led by Iran, which includes Iran, Syria, Hezbollah and other groups fighting alongside President Bashar Assad's forces.

"It's better if they don't come back. There is no work for them there. There is no Daesh or any other terrorist organization," the official said, referring to the Islamic State group and other insurgents that the Syrian government and its allies call terrorist organizations. "What do they want to observe?" he asked.

Asked if there is tension between Hezbollah and Russian troops, the official refused to comment, speaking to the Associated Press by telephone from Syria on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to brief reporters. He said that after the Russian troops left, Syrian forces belonging to the army's 11th Division replaced them.

In 2013, Hezbollah openly joined the Syrian civil war along with Assad's forces capturing the then rebel stronghold of Qusair in June that year after losing dozens of its battle-hardened fighters.

The Russian deployment outside Qusair came after Israeli warplanes struck the nearby Dabaa air base on May 24, according to Syrian activists who said Hezbollah arms depots were hit. There was no word on casualties.

The Israeli military is believed to be behind dozens of airstrikes in recent years against Hezbollah, Iran, and Syrian military positions. The U.S. and Israeli governments have viewed Iran's role in Syria as a threat to Israel and have threatened action.

Although there have been no reports of frictions between Russian and Iranian or Iran-backed fighters in Syria, calls for Tehran to end its military presence in Syria have been on the rise in recent weeks.

At a meeting with Assad, who visited the Russian city of Sochi last month, Russian President Vladimir Putin noted that a political settlement in Syria should encourage foreign countries to withdraw their troops.

Putin's envoy for Syria, Alexander Lavrentyev, later commented that the Russian leader's statement was aimed at the United States and Turkey, along with Iran and Hezbollah. It marked a rare instance in which Moscow suggested Iran should not maintain a permanent military presence in the country.

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo issued a list of demands last month for a new nuclear deal with Iran, including the pullout of its forces from Syria. Israel has also warned it will not accept a permanent Iranian military presence in Syria.

Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal Mikdad however has said on Russia's Sputnik news agency that "this topic is not even on the agenda of discussion, since it concerns the sovereignty of Syria."

A top Iranian security official said that Tehran will maintain an advisory role in Syria and continue to support "resistance groups." The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani meanwhile told Al-Jazeera TV that as long as Syria faces a "terrorist" threat and Damascus requests its presence, "we will stay in Syria."

And for his part, Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said in a speech Friday that "if the whole world tried to impose on us a withdrawal from Syria they will not be able to make us leave," adding that his group would only leave at the request of the Syrian government.

The tensions come amid escalation in the country's southwest near the border with Israel, where in early May Iran struck Israeli positions in the Golan Heights in retaliation for repeated airstrikes in Syria.

Palestinians killed in protest near Gaza-Israeli border

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Israeli troops fired live rounds and tear gas as thousands of Palestinians protested near the Gaza border fence Friday, and at least four demonstrators were killed, including a teenage boy, with over 600 wounded, Gaza health officials said.

More than 100 of the wounded, including a photographer for the French news agency Agence Press France, were hit by live fire, the officials added, as the demonstrators burned tires, threw stones and flew flaming kites in the latest in a series of mass protests to call attention to a decade-old blockade of Gaza by Israel and Egypt. Israel says Gaza's Hamas leaders are using the protests as cover to carry out attacks.

Late Friday, Israel said Gaza militants opened fire and struck an Israeli military post. No injuries were reported.

The march coincided with the annual "Jerusalem Day," instituted by Iran to protest Israeli rule of the holy city. Israel and Iran have been archenemies since Tehran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

In the capitals of Iran and Iraq, thousands of Shiite Muslims marked Jerusalem Day with protests, with some chanting "Death to Israel" or burning Israeli flags and effigies of President Donald Trump.

Since the near-weekly protests began on March 30, more than 120 Palestinians have been killed and over 3,800 wounded by Israeli army fire. The overwhelming majority of the dead and wounded have been unarmed, according to Gaza health officials.

Among the dead Friday was 15-year-old Haitham al-Jamal. His family said he was taking part in a protest in Rafah, in southern Gaza, when he was shot. A total of 12 children under age 16 have been killed in the protests.

French news agency Agence France-Presse said one of its photographers, Mohammed Abed al-Baba, was wounded at a mass rally after Israeli forces opened fire. AFP said al-Baba was wearing a press vest and helmet about 200 meters (yards) from the border when hurt.

It said he was wounded below the knee while trying to take a photo of a wounded protester after Israeli troops opened fire. The photographer's injury was not life-threatening, but he was to undergo surgery.

Israel's military had no comment on the incident.

After Muslim prayers at noon Friday, thousands of Gaza residents streamed toward five protest tent camps that were erected more than two months ago, each several hundred meters (yards) from the fence. From there, smaller groups walked closer to it.

In a camp east of Gaza City, activists burned tires, releasing black smoke. Others threw stones or flew kites with burning rags attached, aiming to send them over the border and set Israeli fields on fire.

Israeli troops fired volleys of tear gas, including from drones, that sent protesters running for cover.

One man with a bullhorn shouted, "America is the biggest evil."

At one point, seven activists in black-and-white striped shirts meant to resemble concentration camp uniforms from World War II approached the fence.

"We want to remind the world that the Israeli occupation is committing the same massacres that the Nazis committed," said activist Ahmed Abu Artima.

Guatemala's Volcano of Fire emits another hot sediment flow

ESCUINTLA, Guatemala (AP)—Guatemala's Volcano of Fire released a flow of burning sediment and rock Saturday, causing authorities to order new preventative evacuations almost a week after the initial eruption left at least 110 people dead and about 200 missing.

Guatemala's seismology and vulcanology institute said the new lahar — a flow of mud, debris, water and pyroclastic material — was fed by rains and tore down trees as it swept through ravines and gullies.

Later Saturday, a rise in the Panaleon river caused by the new outflow led authorities to evacuate 72 people from the community of Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa.

Institute director Eddy Sanchez said the risks from the Volcano of Fire are not over even though its activity has been decreasing. He said the last time it erupted it took two and a half weeks for the volcano to return to normal.

Official search efforts for the missing were suspended for the third straight day Saturday amid dangerous conditions. But in places like San Miguel Los Lotes families and volunteers continued the search.

More than 4,000 people remained in shelters after last Sunday's eruption, where aid has begun arriving along with complaints about how it is being distributed.

Authorities in Guatemalan have already launched an investigation into the official response to the crises.

In Guatemala City, meanwhile, about 1,000 people blew whistles and carried torches and banners in a protest against the official handling of the tragedy.

Focus

Closing North Korea's vast nuclear program poses challenges

By HYUNG-JIN KIM
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—An unknown number of nuclear warheads. Stockpiles of weapons-grade plutonium and highly enriched uranium. ICBMs. Weapons factories—and the scientists who work at them.

The list of what it would take for the "complete denuclearization" of North Korea is long.

North Korea has said it's willing to deal away its entire nuclear arsenal if the United States provides it with a reliable security assurance and other benefits.

But there is lingering skepticism ahead of Tuesday's summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un that Kim would fully give up the nuclear weapons he has pushed so hard to build.

It wouldn't be hard to hide at least some of the warheads and radioactive materials in the country's vast complex of underground facilities.

A look at the many pieces of a secrecy-clouded bomb program that has rattled the region for decades:

AP

This undated file image distributed Sept. 3, 2017, by the North Korean government, shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at an undisclosed location. An unknown number of nuclear warheads. Stockpiles of plutonium and uranium. ICBMs. Weapons factories - and the scientists who work at them. The list of what it would take for the "complete denuclearization" of North Korea is long. North Korea has said it's willing to deal away its entire nuclear arsenal if the United States provides it with a reliable security assurance and other benefits.

THE WARHEADS

The size of North Korea's nuclear arsenal is a mystery, with estimates ranging from 10 bombs to as many as 60 to 70.

How sophisticated they are is also unclear. It's one thing to conduct a nuclear test—North Korea has carried out six underground explosions since 2006, including what it says were two hydrogen bomb tests.

It's another thing to make the warheads small enough to be carried by a long-range missile that can strike the U.S. mainland.

Kim said last November that his country had mastered that technology, and many foreign experts and governments believe North Korea is at least getting there.

"They are close enough now in their capabilities that from a U.S. policy perspective we ought to behave as if we are on the cusp of them achieving" the ability to strike the United States, then-CIA Director Mike Pompeo said in October.

Closer to home, many analysts believe North Korea is able to mount nuclear weapons on shorter-range missiles that could reach South Korea and Japan, where 80,000 American troops are stationed.

THE INGREDIENTS

Nuclear bombs can be made from plutonium or highly enriched uranium, and North Korea has both.

A 2016 South Korean government report says that North Korea is believed to have produced 50 kilograms (110 pounds) of weaponized plutonium, enough for six to 10 bombs.

North Korea shut down the plutonium-producing factory at its main nuclear complex in Nyongbyon in 2007 as part a disarmament-for-aid deal, but the accord later fell apart, and satellite imagery indicates the North has resumed extracting plutonium in recent years.

Plutonium plants are generally large and generate much heat, making it easier for outsiders to detect. A uranium-enrichment plant is more compact and can be easily hidden from satellite cameras. The centrifuges to enrich uranium can be clandestinely operated underground.

Stanford University scholars, including nuclear physicist Siegfried Hecker who visited North Korea's centrifuge facility at Nyongbyon in 2010, recently wrote that North Korea is estimated to have a highly enriched uranium inventory of 250 to 500 kilograms (550 to 1,100 pounds), sufficient for 25 to 30 nuclear devices.

South Korean and U.S. experts speculate North Korea may be running several additional uranium-enrichment plants. It doesn't take much plutonium or highly enriched uranium to make a bomb, and North Korea could hide some of either or both in the more than 10,000 underground tunnels and structures it is reported to have.

About 6 to 8 kilograms (13 to 18 pounds) of plutonium is needed to make a bomb, which would be about the size of a softball, according to experts. For highly-enriched uranium, it's about 20 kilograms (44 pounds) for a bomb about as big as a 1-liter (1-quart) water bottle, says nuclear expert Whang Joo-ho of South Korea's Kyung Hee University.

THE MISSILES

The United States would want North Korea to include any intercontinental ballistic missiles in its disarmament steps as they are the delivery vehicles for nuclear weapons targeting the U.S. mainland.

Last year, North Korea test-launched three ICBMs that it says are all nuclear-capable. Experts say, though, that North Korea has yet to demonstrate the technology needed to protect its bombs from the severe heat and pressure that a long-range missile is subjected to on returning to the Earth's atmosphere.

Lee Choon Geun, a missile expert from South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute, says he believes that North Korea has "several but less than 10 ICBMs."

THE FACILITIES

Most of the key nuclear facilities are at the Nyongbyon complex, about 100 kilometers (60 miles) north of Pyongyang. They include a 5-megawatt, Soviet-designed reactor; a radiochemical laboratory where weapons-grade plutonium can be extracted from spent fuel rods and centrifuges to enrich uranium. Military commentator Lee Illwoo said denuclearization measures would also have to include closing off uranium mines in North Korea.

In May, North Korea demolished its sole nuclear test site deep in the northeastern mountain in a show of commitment to denuclearization. But the closing of the Punggye-ri site in the presence of a small group of foreign journalists isn't an irreversible move and experts say many other significant measures should follow to realize the country's complete denuclearization.

THE SCIENTISTS

In a 2017 report, Lim Young Nam at Seoul's state-run Nuclear Safety and Security Commission said more than 10,000 people work in nuclear-related sectors in North Korea. About 300 of them were believed to be directly involved in the development of nuclear weapons, he said.

Lim says that relocating key nuclear scientists and engineers to other sectors is as important as scrapping nuclear warheads. Adds Whang, if they are left intact, North Korea could enrich uranium and build new bombs "in a year or two."

Health & Wellness

LOUIS DELUCA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Molly Setnick, who leads indoor cycling classes, says the driving force behind a workout is to improve health, get stronger and lose weight, but enjoying it helps.

Does your workout have to be fun to work?

By LESLIE BARKER
THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS

Some things in life are inherently served with a big scoop of fun: balloons, bubbles, cupcakes to name but a few.

Exercise? Opinions vary.

Avid cyclist Marcia Smith of Dallas says her Saturday bike rides "make me feel like a 12-year-old."

Sarah Samaan of Frisco, Texas, knows that riding her horse "is super exercise, but I just don't think of it that way because it is way too much fun."

Dallas triathlete Scott Cessac says going on a four-hour bike ride and one-hour run alone isn't fun. "But having friends there with you doing it alongside you makes it more enjoyable."

Lee Ann Rayburn says exercise in general doesn't equal fun. But, she adds, "I love nothing more than to hike in the woods. To me, it's like nature's gigantic playground."

Anyone who has stepped foot on a trail knows hiking is indeed exercise. But does calling it fun negate its benefits? Or, looking at fun another way, does exercise have to be fun to get people to do it—and to make it a habit?

"There's a really small minority of people who are so disciplined that no matter what, they're going to do it," says Michelle Segar, author of "No Sweat: How the Simple Science of Motivation Can Bring You a Lifetime of Fitness" (American Management Association, $16.95).

For most of us, that's not true. Which makes this fun business a topic of intrigue, and one that researchers take seriously. A sampling of their findings:

■ Think of exercise as fun, and you're more likely to eat healthfully afterward.

A series of studies confirms this, including one where relay runners were asked after the race about their experience. The more negative their experience, the more unhealthy their snack choices.

■ Enjoyment is the best motivator for exercise.

"Logic doesn't motivate us; emotions do," Segar writes in her book. In other words, people who exercise for enjoyment stick with it more than those who do so for medical reasons.

"The problem is that we've turned exercise into a chore," says Segar, who directs the Sport, Health and Activity Research and Policy Center at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor. "People feel they have to run intensely; they have to sweat; they have to feel uncomfortable. That typically makes, in general, people feel worse and derive less pleasure when the exercise is hard."

But fun alone is not enough, some experts say.

"Unfortunately, exercise is not really fun," says Molly Setnick, owner of Crowbar Cario in Lower Greenville, Texas. "Some people are so lucky to have found something they love to do that is exercise, whether it's dance or running or swimming. But for the majority of the population, it's a chore."

LOUIS DELUCA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS/TNS

Molly Setnick, right, leading a workout at her studio, Crowbar Cardio, says fun is a motivator, but people still need to make a commitment to exercise.

Exercise at its optimum is a balance of fun, effectiveness and safety, Setnick says. It makes people feel, "I got something out of this and I want to do it again," she says.

"The fun aspect has to be in there, but it can't be the driving force. The driving force is improving health, getting stronger, losing weight, and if you don't get those, you lose the people anyway."

Fun is "a touchy subject for me," she says. "It's true that people are more likely to stick with something they enjoy, whether exercise or food. That's driven a lot of the fitness industry: 'Make it fun and they'll come. Play music and they'll come.'"

But the drive to make exercise fun is never ending, she says, and she thinks it can cause people to miss the point. "'Let's start bringing giant tractor tires to the gym. Let's start hip-hop dancing in sync while cycling.' The problem is, unless someone wants to exercise and is committed to it, putting a bike on a roller coaster wouldn't keep them committed and coming in."

The whole make-it-fun idea could be construed as part of our society in general: Keep it interesting so (heaven forbid) we won't be bored.

"It's like nobody has an attention span," Setnick says. "Everything has to be changing. It's like we're all looking for the next new thing, and there isn't always a next new thing."

Which isn't to say exercise should be drudgery.

"You have to find something you can at least enjoy, and you're more likely to stick with it if you're having a good time," she says. "But I think sometimes that good time might need to come from a friend going with you as opposed to the class itself."

Her goal in the seven weekly classes she teaches is that people leave "knowing they had a great workout and hopefully it will be one they enjoyed. If they don't have a pleasant time, they won't come back."

One primary thing to keep in mind, Segar says, is that the reason for exercising "has to be truly compelling. It's giving you something positive you can immediately experience."

Maybe it gives you more energy, or helps you manage stress, or gives you time to laugh. Stick with it long enough and—though some days will be tougher than others—the overall enjoyment factor gets ingrained.

Additionally, you'll begin seeing physical and emotional results.

"Once we know something we do gives us something we like, we keep wanting it again and again," Segar says. "That's the neuroscience of reward. That's why it's so important that people design their physical activity based on what they want and what feels good to them."

But even liking exercise is no guarantee people will make it a priority, she says. And that's the next step—reminding people that spending time in activities we enjoy makes us more positive people.

"It leads to better health, more resilience, more creative and flexible thinking. It leads to more patience with people we love. It's like feeling good revitalizes us for everything we care about."

FITNESS PRO

How exercise fights stress

By NANCI HELLMICH
USA TODAY

Fitness expert Chris Powell, the transformation specialist on ABC's Extreme Weight Loss, says that when he's stressed out, he trains. "Exercise is one of the most powerful anti-stress and anti-depressant medications.

"Physically, we get an incredible endorphin release to make us feel better, and mentally we earn an amazing sense of accomplishment for the rest of the day," says Powell, who has a degree in exercise science and is the author of the book, Choose More, Lose More for Life.

Powell and other health-savvy celebrities share their ideas for reducing stress, exercising and living an overall healthy life in the magazine USA TODAY The Best Ways to Stress Less, Sleep Better, on newsstands now.

His best insights on:

Living a healthy life. "The best way to live an overall healthy life is to exercise regularly and eat in moderation. Moderation is key—don't let yourself go hungry, or you will likely overeat later. One of my favorite tricks to keep my appetite at bay is to eat one tablespoon of almond butter with a glass of warm water 30 minutes before a meal; you'll feel stuffed before you eat and most likely consume a fraction of the calories you would normally devour."

Weaving exercise into his life. "On the road it's actually pretty easy. I do a lot of body-weight training: push-ups, pull-ups, sit-ups, squats, etc. In most hotel gyms I have access to dumbbells … and I'll try to map out a local gym wherever I'm staying so I can throw some barbells around."

Sleeping well. "When I sleep, I sleep well. I'm often in a new city every couple of days, and the time zones can throw me off a bit. Whenever I don't get as much sleep as necessary, I do my best to carve out time for a nap.

"I average between 8 and 9 hours every night. I train hard, so I need quite a bit of sleep. It is sometimes easier to sleep on the road, but when I'm home with the family we have a strict early bedtime so I can be up for my 5 a.m. workouts."

Dealing with sleepless nights. "I go through breathing techniques. I often find myself worrying about events in the future—which causes my body to stress about them as if they are actually happening. I focus on my breathing and appreciate the quiet and calm I am experiencing now."

Enjoying food while managing weight. "It's important to remember that food that can help you maintain your weight can taste amazing too. Choose whole, unprocessed foods that you love to eat—everything from fresh fruits, to sweet potatoes, quinoa, and foods with healthy fats like avocados and almonds. You read that right—you can eat healthy fats and manage your weight. It is also important not to deprive yourself. Choose a day every week to reward yourself with whatever foods you may be craving—in moderation, of course."

Losing weight. "Make small, attainable promises that you can keep every day. Unite with other people with similar goals and aspirations. They will be there for accountability and emotional support. Create an environment for success: Clean out your house, car and workplace. Stock up with healthy, tasty foods like lean meats, protein shakes, almonds, fruits, vegetables and whole grains."

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Prosecutor: No evidence of any foul play in Bourdain death

PARIS (AP)—There's no evidence of foul play or violence in celebrity chef Anthony Bourdain's death in a French hotel room, a French prosecutor said Saturday.

The famed cook, writer and host of the CNN series "Parts Unknown" killed himself Friday in a luxury hotel in the ancient village of Kaysersberg, Christian de Rocquigny, the prosecutor of Colmar in France's eastern Alsace region, told The Associated Press in a phone interview.

Rocquigny said there did not appear to be much planning in the television personality's suicide.

"There is no element that makes us suspect that someone came into the room at any moment," he said, adding that a medical expert had concluded that there were no signs of violence on Bourdain's body.

Rocquigny said toxicology tests were being carried out on Bourdain's body, including urine tests, to see if the 61-year-old American took any medications or other drugs, in an effort to help his family understand if anything led him to kill himself.

Olivier Nasti, the chef and owner of Le Chambard, the luxury hotel in Kaysersberg where Bourdain took his life, paid tribute to his colleague Saturday.

"It is with great respect for the leader, the author, the TV entertainer, the visionary Anthony Bourdain that I express all my condolences to his family and to the anonymous people around the world who he made dream so much," Nasti said in a statement Saturday.

"It is the whole family of French gastronomy that joins me, to renew our deep friendship to our bereaved American brothers," he added.

Kayserberg Mayor Pascal Lohr told The AP his town is extending its grief "to the entire United States."

Italian tourist Fulvio Lotti, visiting the town, said, "I felt very surprised and sad of course because I like his show, I like his books ... and then to know that he suddenly died in a city where I came for a weekend from Florence, it's weird."

Lotti plans to dine at the Chambard's restaurant, and "I will have a thought about him."

Bourdain filmed a segment of his show this week at the Michelin-starred Auberge d l'Ill in nearby Illhaeusern, where staff are reeling from his death.

In this Saturday, Sept. 12, 2015 file photo, Anthony Bourdain arrives at the Creative Arts Emmy Awards in Los Angeles. AP

Bourdain's death means loss of a voice for immigrant workers

By TERRY TANG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Anthony Bourdain's culinary passions went far beyond the cuisine he put on a plate. He also was committed to the immigrant workers who toil in his and other kitchens throughout the restaurant industry.

Bourdain, who died Friday in France in an apparent suicide at age 61, was an outspoken critic of President Donald Trump's immigration policies and a fierce defender of Hispanic workers.

The chef, global traveler and author, whose popularity grew with his CNN series "Parts Unknown," often was the first to tip his hat to his employees from Central America or Mexico. He promoted his Mexican-born sous chef, the late Carlos Llaguno Garcia, to run two of his New York restaurants and complained loudly about the United States' "ridiculously hypocritical attitudes" toward immigration.

"Some, of course, like to claim that Mexicans are stealing American jobs," Bourdain said in 2014. "But in two decades as a chef and employer, I never had one American kid walk in my door and apply for a dishwashing job, a porter's position or even a job as prep cook."

During the 2016 presidential campaign season, Bourdain slammed Trump's promises to deport immigrants in the U.S. illegally and build a wall along the Mexican border.

"If Mr. Trump deports 11 million people or whatever he's talking about right now, every restaurant in America would shut down," Bourdain said in an interview with SiriusXM radio.

Trump has said the wall is needed to keep immigrants and drugs out of the U.S. and his policies are designed to keep the country safe.

Writer of viral Olive Garden review grateful for Bourdain

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—A North Dakota newspaper columnist who received online vitriol in 2012 for her glowing review of an Olive Garden in Grand Forks said Saturday she was grateful that Anthony Bourdain came to her defense as others ridiculed her prose about the town's hottest new Italian restaurant.

Marilyn Hagerty catapulted to internet fame after her Olive Garden review, in which she marveled about the chain restaurant's chicken Alfredo, crisp greens and "two long, warm breadsticks." Then, she learned what it's like to go viral.

Bourdain, who died Friday in France in an apparent suicide at age 61, was among those who stood up for her on Twitter. The celebrity chef and TV host asked to meet her for coffee while she was on a media tour in New York, and he ended up publishing a book of her columns, "Grand Forks: A History of American Dining in 128 Reviews."

In the foreword, Bourdain wrote: "Anyone who comes away from this work anything less than charmed by Ms. Hagerty—and the places and characters she describes—has a heart of stone. This book kills snark dead."

Hagerty, who's 92, said she enjoyed meeting Bourdain, whom she described as "handsome." She said they talked for a couple of hours about her life, North Dakota and a birthday party he held for his daughter, who was 5 at the time.

"You just would like to sit and have coffee with him, or booze, or whatever he's having," she said. "To me, he was a warm person, and you liked to spend time with him because he was interested. He wanted to talk about me and my home ... he just didn't talk about himself and his interest in food."

She went on to say: "It was just like talking to a friend."

Hagerty said she knew Bourdain's work was popular but admitted she wasn't a huge fan.

"I never really could understand a lot of the things he did, why he'd want to do them," she said. "But he wasn't weird or kooky or anything. He was just a really pleasant person."

IN LOVING MEMORY OF
†Ma. Cherrie Bugarin
January 29, 1969 – May 21, 2018
We are inviting the friends, co-workers
and community members to join us to as we bid
farewell to our dearly beloved Cherrie on June 12th,
Tuesday at Kristo Rai Parish from 6pm – 8pm.
Your prayers and presence
will be greatly appreciated.
The Family

Abusive messages show dark side of 'Star Wars' fandom

By JAKE COYLE
AP FILM WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—The dark side of "Star Wars" fandom recently reared its head when Kelly Marie Tran, the actress who plays Rose Tico in "Star Wars: The Last Jedi," was run off Instagram by misogynistic and racist messages from fans who didn't like her character in the movie.

The episode was not an uncommon one. Daisy Ridley, who stars as the heroine Rey, quit social media last year for similar reasons. They are far from the first women to be hounded by bitter, mostly male fans who didn't approve of their entry into a fictional pop-culture world that some fans feel a misguided sense of ownership of.

Such toxic abuse has long been a staple of darker social-media realms, fan-group message boards and internet comments pages. Obsession—loving or poisonous—has helped fuel the most dedicated fan bases, whose fervor is craved and cultivated by billion-dollar brands. But the scorn heaped on Tran—a 29-year-old newcomer who has been overjoyed at her induction into "Star Wars"—sparked a backlash of its own.

"What's not to love?" asked Mark Hamill, aka Luke Skywalker, with a photo of himself and Tran and the hashtag "GetALifeNerds."

Affectionate fan art of Tran's character began circling widely on Twitter. "The Last Jedi" writer-director Rian Johnson forcefully came to his actress' defense.

"On social media a few unhealthy people can cast a big shadow on the wall, but over the past 4 years I've met lots of real fellow SW fans," said Johnson. "We like & dislike stuff but we do it with humor, love & respect. We're the VAST majority, we're having fun & doing just fine."

Tran

Who exactly is today's "Star Wars" fan? Those who stood in line for "A New Hope" in 1977 would likely be in their 50s, at least, by now. George Lucas' 1999-2005 prequels, despite their flaws, helped introduce a new generation to the movies, as have the rebooted installments of recent years, following Disney's purchase of Lucasfilm. And those films have made a sincere effort to expand the universe of "Star Wars" with a more diverse array of characters.

Few have gotten a better look at the remaining "man-babies" of "Star Wars," as Johnson called them, than Robert Smigel, the comedian behind Triumph the Insult Comic Dog. When "Attack of the Clones" was released, he memorably took Triumph to visit fans (many of them costumed) camped outside New York's Ziegfeld Theatre. "Return of the Dorks," Triumph dubbed it.

A kind of hand-puppet Don Rickles, Triumph eviscerated them as "thousands of 35-year-old men ... lonely men who have never had sex, not even with a Catholic priest." It was the comedy version of shooting fish in a barrel, and—charmingly—most of the fans loved every minute of it.

"I almost felt like I did when I met Don Rickles. They were kind of excited to be made fun of by Triumph," said Smigel in an interview. "They were overwhelmingly sweet-natured."

In a week where "Star Wars" fandom reached its lowest point—and not because "Solo: A Star Wars Story" has nose-dived at the box office—it's helpful to remember that earlier, more innocent, pre-social media chapter in "Star Wars" fandom. It showed the value of a healthy dose of self-deprecation for any fanboy.

"I am a fan. I'm a fan of 'Star Trek,' too. I have a deep affection for people who obsess on these things because I identify with it. I'm a nerd in different ways. I obsessed on Peanuts when I was a kid, and dressed up that way. Granted, when I was as an adult, I got past it," said Smigel, laughing. "There's something incredibly endearing about anyone who's passionate about anything. Except for Holocaust denying."

Even the man behind the harshest "Star Wars" critic found the attacks on Tran "shameful."

"I was upset about it," said Smigel. "I took my kids to it and it's been such a joy taking them to the new 'Star Wars' films because they're so much closer in spirit to the originals, which I love. It's just sad because that's what the Internet has become. It's become this loud minority. It doesn't seem to me that they represent the majority of the people that saw that movie. People enjoy pushing buttons, in both political matters and matters of extreme trivia."

"The Last Jedi," which dared to break some of the "Star Wars" norms, proved especially divisive among some aficionados . Other efforts to boost multiculturalism and gender equality in Hollywood blockbusters have also provoked politically tinged responses. Before he was president, Donald Trump was among those to criticize the female-led "Ghostbusters," which became a lightning rod in 2016.

Harry and Meghan turn out for Trooping the Color spectacle

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry and his new wife, the former actress Meghan Markle, joined the pageantry of the annual Trooping the Color ceremony Saturday in London to celebrate Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday.

The duke and duchess, who married three weeks ago, made the short trip from Buckingham Palace to Horse Guards Parade in a horse-drawn carriage as royal fans lining the Mall cheered and waved. The couple later joined other members of the royal family on the palace's front balcony to watch the Royal Air Force fly by.

As the aerobatic display team, the Red Arrows, released plumes of red, white and blue smoke over the balcony of Buckingham Palace, the queen's great-grandchildren waved wildly. She smiled—both at the jets and the children.

The 92-year-old queen, whose real birthday is April 21, seemed vigorous as she keenly observed the event. The monarch, who recently had a successful cataract operation, watched the ceremony from a dais and inspected the guardsmen in bearskin hats and scarlet tunics.

One guardsman stood out: Charanpreet Singh Lall, a 22-year-old Sikh from Leicester, who wore a black turban. It marked the first time a member of the Coldstream Guards took part wearing turban—and Lall hoped it wouldn't be the last.

"I hope that people watching, that they will just acknowledge it and that they will look at it as a new change in history," he said. "I hope that more people like me, not just Sikhs but from other religions and different backgrounds, that they will be encouraged to join the Army."

Trooping the Color is a ceremony deeply rooted in the history of the United Kingdom. It originated from traditional preparations for battle when flags, or colors, were "trooped" so soldiers in the ranks would be able to recognize them.

Thousands of spectators flocked to London for the annual spectacle, hoping to catch a glimpse of the glittering house of Windsor, jamming the royal parks near the parade grounds.

The Duchess of Sussex, as Markle is now known, wore a Carolina Herrera dress and a hat by Philip Treacy. The Duchess of Cambridge, the former Kate Middleton who is married to Harry's older brother Prince William, wore a dress by Alexander McQueen and a hat by Juliette Botterill.

Harry and William were in military dress uniforms.

The queen, who wore a sky blue coat and dress by Stuart Parvin and a hat by Angela Kelly, traveled alone in an Ascot Landau. The queen's husband, 96-year-old Prince Philip, has retired from royal duties.

Some 7,500 guests joined the monarch at Horse Guards, with prime seats accorded to U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis and Britain's Defense Secretary, Gavin Williamson.

The military precision of the parade unraveled slightly at the end of the day when the former chief of the defense staff, Charles Guthrie, 79, was thrown from his horse. He received medical attention.

Michael Fassbender pursuing his driving ambition

By JEROME PUGMIRE
AP SPORTS WRITER

Michael Fassbender thought he was going to be sick.

But the two-time Oscar nominee was not in front of the camera in a demanding new role.

The stage fright was a totally new experience: He was moments away from racing a car for the first time.

"I was extremely nervous, to the point that I was in the toilets," Fassbender told The Associated Press in a telephone interview. "I thought I was going to throw up. I didn't, but I was very close."

That was last year, when the amateur driver made his debut in the Ferrari Challenge series.

"You're racing nose-to-bumper at high speed," Fassbender said. "The Ferrari cars have an awful lot of horse power. If you lose the back end you have to catch a tow quickly, or you leave the track."

Fassbender

He clinched his first podium the same year, a third place at the rain-soaked Mosport race in Ontario, Canada.

"Emotions were bubbling up inside of me when I approached the line. Thankfully my coach hadn't told me my position, but I knew I'd passed a lot of cars."

Like a method actor, Fassbender thoroughly prepared for a wet race in Canada by practicing on the Nuerburgring track in Germany, one of Formula One's famed tracks.

"I had a really great coach who taught me to drive in the wet, and to take a different racing line," the 41-year-old Fassbender said.

Now, he's chasing podiums.

In January, he was first at Daytona, following that up with a second place and a third place at other races.

This weekend, Fassbender was competing in the Ferrari Challenge in Montreal, parallel to the Formula One grand prix there. There was no podium finish for Fassbender on Saturday, however, after he was clipped from behind early on. But he has a chance to make amends in another race on Sunday.

Wherever he goes, the German-born Irish actor is popular worldwide. He was nominated for Oscars for his roles in "Steve Jobs" and "12 Years a Slave," and is instantly recognizable from X-Men films.

As a lad growing up back home in Ireland, however, he had only eyes for F1.

"I got into Formula One through my grandfather, around '88, '89. Ayrton Senna was his hero, and then Michael Schumacher became my hero," Fassbender said. "I always loved cars. I couldn't wait to get my drivers' license, counting down the days until I was 17."

Lasseter, Pixar co-founder, to step down at end of year

NEW YORK (AP)—John Lasseter, the co-founder of Pixar Animation Studios and the Walt Disney Co.'s animation chief, will step down at the end of the year after acknowledging "missteps" in his behavior with staff members.

Lasseter

Disney announced Friday that Lasseter—one of the most illustrious and powerful figures in animation—will stay on through the end of 2018 as a consultant. After that he will depart Disney permanently.

Lasseter in November took what he called a six-month "sabbatical." He apologized "to anyone who has ever been on the receiving end of an unwanted hug" or any other gesture that made them feel "disrespected or uncomfortable." At the time, Lasseter signaled that he hoped to then return to Disney. Many in Hollywood were skeptical that was possible.

"The last six months have provided an opportunity to reflect on my life, career and personal priorities," Lasseter said in a statement. "While I remain dedicated to the art of animation and inspired by the creative talent at Pixar and Disney, I have decided the end of this year is the right time to begin focusing on new creative challenges."

The 61-year-old Lasseter, easily recognizable for his bright Hawaiian shirts, is the highest-ranking Hollywood executive to be toppled in the wake of the #MeToo movement that followed Harvey Weinstein's downfall in October. A pioneer in digital animation, Lasseter has been a creative force behind every Pixar release as well as Disney hits like "Frozen," ''Moana" and "Zootopia." Lasseter directed Pixar's breakthrough feature "Toy Story" as well as it first sequel, "Toy Story 2"

After Disney acquired Pixar in 2006, Lasseter was named chief creative officer of Pixar as well as Disney Animation. Under Lasseter, the previously flagging animation studio was reborn through both Pixar and Disney releases that have amassed billions in box office and a string of Oscars.

Bob Iger, chief executive of Disney, praised Lasseter for his vision and assembling storytellers and innovators "to set the standard in animation for generations to come."

"John had a remarkable tenure at Pixar and Disney Animation, reinventing the animation business, taking breathtaking risks, and telling original, high quality stories that will last forever. We are profoundly grateful for his contribution, which included a masterful and remarkable turnaround of The Walt Disney Animation Studios."

Pixar's latest, "Incredibles 2," is due out next week. Lasseter is an executive producer of the anticipated sequel, which is expected to be among the biggest box-office debuts for an animated release.

Disney didn't announce a successor to Lasseter.

The Tony Awards this year may need some help from The Boss

NEW YORK (AP)—The Tony Awards kick off on Sunday night with a pair of first-time hosts and no clear show juggernaut like "Hamilton" to watch vacuum up statuettes, but the production will get a likely assist by The Boss—Bruce Springsteen.

Josh Groban and Sara Bareilles face their biggest audience yet and a careful political balancing act when they co-host the CBS telecast from the massive 6,000-seat Radio City Music Hall.

Getting buzz from appearing on the telecast can dictate a show's future, both on Broadway and on tour. Broadway producers will be thankful this year that the telecast won't have to compete with any NBA Finals or Stanley Cup playoff games.

A-list talent expected to be on hand this year includes Robert De Niro, Claire Danes, Billy Joel, Carey Mulligan, Jim Parsons and Kerry Washington. Springsteen will make a rare TV appearance, performing live on the show and receive a Special Tony Award for his one-man show "Springsteen on Broadway."

Others expected to participate include Uzo Aduba, Christine Baranski, Mikhail Baryshnikov, Melissa Benoist, Matt Bomer, Tituss Burgess, Jeff Daniels, Brandon Victor Dixon, James Monroe Iglehart, Christopher Jackson, Patti LuPone, Tatiana Maslany, Katharine McPhee, Matthew Morrison, Leslie Odom, Jr., Kelli O'Hara, Zachary Quinto, Bernadette Peters and Andrew Rannells.

Two new musicals lead the nominations for the top Tony Award crown, with Tina Fey's "Mean Girls" and "SpongeBob SquarePants" receiving 12 nods each. A revival of "Angels in America" has 11 and the two-part play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" has 10. Many critics have tapped "The Band's Visit" as their odds-on favorite to be crowned best new musical.

Viewers will see performances from "The Band's Visit," ''Carousel," ''Frozen," ''Mean Girls," ''My Fair Lady," ''Once on This Island," ''SpongeBob SquarePants" and "Summer: The Donna Summer Musical." The cast of "Dear Evan Hansen" will also return for a performance.

For most of the previous awards season, shows like the Oscars and Golden Globes have acknowledged the issue of sexual misconduct and abuse of power. Bareilles and Groban will try to do that while also eviscerating any memory of last year's Tony host, Kevin Spacey, who since then has been accused by at least 24 men of sexual misconduct or assault.

2 grown up Harry Potters will compete on Broadway soon

NEW YORK (AP)—This fall, Broadway-goers will get a chance to see both Harry Potter and "Harry Potter."

Daniel Radcliffe, who played the boy wizard in the J.K. Rowling franchise, will return to Broadway in "The Lifespan of a Fact," co-starring Bobby Cannavale and Cherry Jones. Leigh Silverman will direct.

The show will begin performances on Sept. 20 and will officially open on October 18. It will face-off against the Tony-nominated play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child," which picks up 19 years from where Rowling's last novel left off and portrays Potter and his friends as grown-ups.

"The Lifespan of a Fact" centers on the investigation of a Las Vegas teen's suicide. Radcliffe's Broadway credits include "Equus," ''How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying" and "The Cripple of Inishmaan."

Queen's honors for Emma Thompson, Tom Hardy, Keira Knightley

LONDON (AP)—British film stars Emma Thompson, Keira Knightley and Tom Hardy and Nobel Prize-winning author Kazuo Ishiguro are among those receiving honors in the name of Britain's monarch.

The list published late Friday by Britain's Cabinet Office includes many receiving honors for merit, service and bravery. The awards will be given out by Queen Elizabeth II or a senior royal acting in her place during investitures at Buckingham Palace.

The list often includes prominent figures—like Thompson, the Oscar-winning actress who has been in the public eye for decades—as well as people who have labored behind the scenes or in academic or charity positions.

The 59-year-old Thompson will become Dame Emma, a high honor that is the female equivalent of becoming a knight. The citation calls her one of Britain's "most versatile and celebrated actresses."

Her long list of film roles includes favorites like "The Remains of the Day"—which was written by Ishiguro—"Love Actually" and "Nanny McPhee." She received the Academy Award for Best Actress for "Howards End" and—as a writer—the Oscar for the best adapted screenplay for "Sense and Sensibility."

The Queen's Birthday List—Elizabeth's official birthday is Saturday and will be marked with the Trooping the Color parade—bestows a knighthood on Mark Rowley for his service while heading the Metropolitan Police counter-terrorism squad during a series of lethal attacks last year. When he retired in March after more than three decades on the force, Prime Minister Theresa May praised Rowley's dedication to protecting the public.

Ishiguro, who was born in Japan, received a knighthood for his services to literature. He said he was "deeply touched to receive this honor from the nation that welcomed me as a small foreign boy."

SOME LIKE IT NOT AP

This Thursday, June 7, 2018 photo shows Seward Johnson's "Forever Marilyn" sculpture in Latham Park in Stamford, Conn. The 26-foot statue that was newly installed in the park is scandalizing some because her rear end is facing the entrance of the First Congregational Church. It depicts the famous scene from 1955's "The Seven Year Itch" where Monroe holds down her white dress as air blows up from a subway grate. The back of the statue showing her underwear is clearly visible from the front of the First Congregational Church of Stamford. Some passersby this week said it was disrespectful to the church.

Woman finds ways to mend lost dream of motherhood

DEAR ABBY: I have some suggestions for "Longing to Be a Mom" (Feb. 27), whose husband doesn't want a child. If you talk your husband into it, are you prepared to do all the parenting while he sits staring at the TV or starts working longer hours or worse? Are you prepared for the lack of connection that child might have with his/her father?

Grieve your loss. Losing the possibility for motherhood is a great loss. Find a support group or counselor who deals with loss. Believe me, I understand. My boyfriend told me he wanted children. Motherhood was my dream, and I lost my only child to an early miscarriage. Then my husband revealed he'd never really wanted children—he only said he did because he wanted to marry me.

So I made a conscious decision to live a different life than I had planned, but a full and satisfying one. Thousands of children need someone to care. Explore opportunities to love a child who doesn't have your blood, but who could have your heart.

Help at a church's children's department, a Girl Scout troop, tutor children at a local school, offer to take a single mom's children to a park for an hour. The possibilities are endless.

No, it's not the same as bearing your own children. But even if one dream was dashed, take heart: You can still fulfill new ones.

HELEN IN WASHINGTON

DEAR HELEN: Thank you for offering sensible advice to help "Longing" as well as other women in her situation. Readers suggested other ways to mother children who are already in the world: joining the Big Brothers Big Sisters program, volunteering at a day care facility or after-school program, contacting Boys and Girls Clubs of America, cuddling newborns at a hospital and becoming involved in a homeless shelter's Adopt-a-Family program.

DEAR ABBY: I love my husband very much. He's a very sweet and thoughtful man, but he's horrible at picking out gifts—not just for me but for everybody. Occasionally he has given me something I liked, but usually his gifts are way off the mark, and I must pretend to like them to spare his feelings.

The last few years I've put together Christmas and birthday lists for him, hoping it would solve the problem, but he says he hates lists. He says it's better for someone to put "thought" behind a gift, which I agree with, but it's just not one of his talents.

Can you suggest a way to speak to him about this without hurting his feelings? It would be greatly appreciated.

TIRED OF UGLY SWEATERS IN VIRGINIA

DEAR TIRED: Choose a time between gift-giving occasions to point out that while it may be the thought that counts, he could be getting better value for his money if he asked the recipients what their color preferences or needs are. Because you have assembled lists of suggestions and he chooses to ignore them, understand that your husband may have his own agenda in gift selection. And if you have your eye on something for a special occasion—buy it for yourself.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

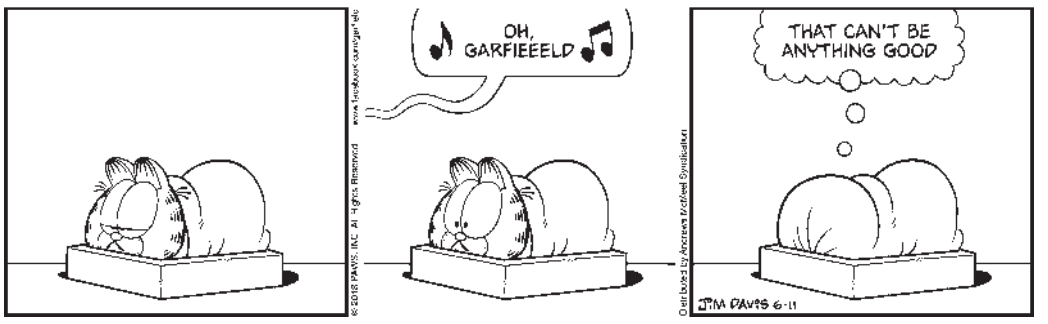
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

HEY, LOOK! MOM AND DAD ARE THROWING DUFFEL BAGS IN THE CAR. THEY'RE GOING ON VACATION!
AT LAST! FINALLY WE GET THE HOUSE TO OURSELVES! WE CAN STAY UP LATE AND WATCH TV! WE CAN EAT COOKIES FOR DINNER! WE....
WHAT ARE YOU DOING UP HERE STILL? C'MON, LET'S GO.
ME? GO? GO WHERE?
ON VACATION! WHAT HAVE WE BEEN PLANNING ALL MONTH?
WITH YOU AND MOM?! WHAT KIND OF VACATION IS THAT?!

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



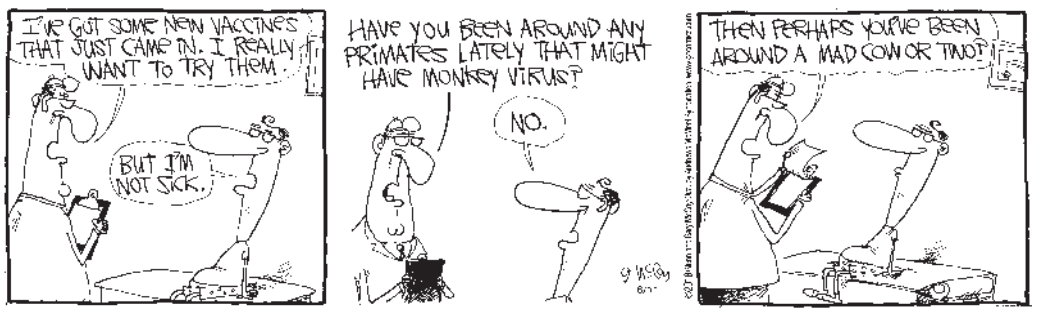
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

IT'S WORKING!
BEHOLD THE TALL POOL!
OH! OH!!
SPLOOSH
AAAAA!
DESPITE THE FLOODED BASEMENT, BROKEN WINDOWS AND THE GALLONS OF WATER UP MY NOSE, THAT WAS A HOOT.
WOO!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


I'VE GOT SOME NEW VACCINES THAT JUST CAME IN. I REALLY WANT TO TRY THEM.
BUT I'M NOT SICK.
HAVE YOU BEEN AROUND ANY PRIMATES LATELY THAT MIGHT HAVE MONKEY VIRUS?
NO.
THEN PERHAPS YOU'VE BEEN AROUND A MAD COW OR TWO?

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 NYPD alert
4 Likely
7 Tiny branch
11 Nile queen, informally
13 Sound of relief
14 Greet silently
15 Adolescent
16 Frazier foe
17 Utah city
18 Less risky
20 Cat call
22 Misery
24 Thick milkshake
28 Arp's art movement
32 Waffle topper
33 Wrong
34 Luau bowlful
36 Sulk
37 Sweetie
39 Oval
41 Skiing style
43 Listener
44 Talon
46 Invigorating
50 High point
53 Drunkard
55 Classic theaters
56 Coastal eagle
57 First lady?
58 Authentic
59 Huff and puff
60 Superman foe Luthor
61 Compass dir.

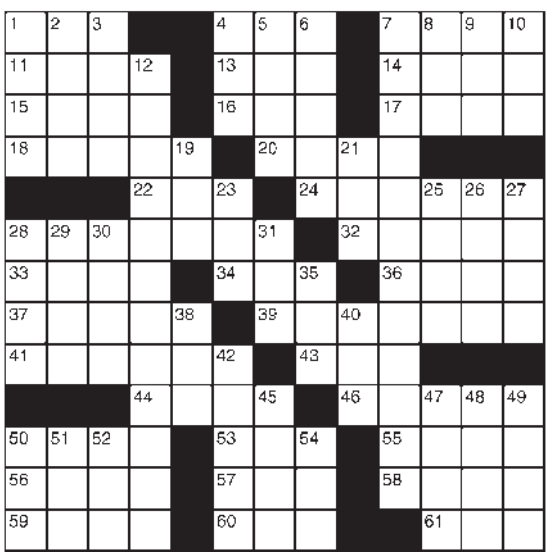
DOWN

1 Deeds
2 Entreaty
3 Complaint
4 Small battery
5 Tropical tree
6 Pilferer
7 Interrogation room feature
8 Series of battles
9 "— had it!"
10 Jewel
12 Fare that doesn't include a return trip
19 King, in Cannes
21 Hosp. areas
23 Mentalist's claim
25 Item on stage
26 Young seals
27 Duel tool
28 Facts and figures
29 MP's quarry
30 Let fall
31 Homer's bartender
35 — -de-France
38 NBC sketch show
40 Science room
42 Painter's stand
45 Used a loom
47 Mid-month date
48 Salty septet
49 Curly cabbage
50 Vigor
51 Mound stat
52 Raggedy doll
54 — -Mex cuisine

Solution time: 26 mins.

T	I	B	E	T		A	B	E		B	A	H
A	D	O	R	E		N	O	B		U	M	A
R	O	B	I	N		G	O	B	B	L	E	S
		B	E	E	P	E	R		U	L	N	A
T	I	I		T	F	I		T	R	Y	S	T
A	C	E	S		S	A	D	A	T			
J	E	S	U	I	T		W	O	O	H	O	O
			B	R	O	K	E		N	O	U	N
R	E	C	U	R		A	L	P		B	R	O
O	M	A	R		E	N	T	O	M	B		
W	O	B	B	L	E	S		L	A	L	A	W
E	T	A		A	L	A		A	R	E	N	A
D	F	I		S	Y	N		R	F	S	T	S

Last Friday's Answer 06-11



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Claire Holt, 30; Shia LaBeouf, 32; Peter Dinklage, 49; Hugh Laurie, 59.

Happy Birthday: Put the past behind you and make the present and the future priorities. Get involved in events that encourage innovation and offer you the incentive you need to turn one of your longtime dreams into a reality. Take the plunge and see what life has to offer. Indulge in learning something new that will help you perfect something you enjoy doing. Your numbers are 1, 8, 17, 24, 32, 35, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Contemplate what it is you really want to do before you initiate your plans. Time is on your side, and if you are patient, you will end up getting what you want. Use your head and choose what's best for you. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Instigate rather than waiting for someone else to force you into something. If you take control now, you will be able to take advantage of an opportunity that comes your way unexpectedly. A physical change will lift your spirits. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Travel, communicate with experts and make up your mind about what's next on your agenda. Moving forward swiftly will ensure you don't miss out on something that can point you in the right direction and improve your life. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Check out the risk factors and consider heading toward someone or something that is a little more obscure than your usual encounters. What you learn by doing things differently will open up a window of opportunity. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Not so fast. If you try to step in and take over, you will get more than you bargained for. Consider the consequences and rethink the approach you take when dealing with others personally or professionally. Listen and pay attention. ✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Bring on change. A change of environment will give you greater perspective regarding your current situation and how best to deal with matters that concern others. Your patience and tolerance, along with your suggestions, will pay off. Personal gains look promising. ✪✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You'll have some good ideas but are still likely to face opposition from someone who likes to control you. Move forward and do what benefits you the most. When everything is said and done, you'll face less resistance. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Change may be tempting, but before you begin, you should consider how it will affect others. If you want to move forward freely, offer something in return and you'll get the go-ahead. Personal improvements and romance are favored. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Do what will help you and the things you believe in most instead of giving in to someone pestering you or making you feel guilty if you don't make a donation or offer an undeserved handout. Put your needs first. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* A geographical move or altering your situation at home will give you the motivation to try something new, make positive decisions and improve your relationship with someone you care about. An unusual offer will take you by surprise. ✪✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Sit tight and focus on knowledge, information and what you can learn from others. Don't feel you have to jump into something just because someone else does. Bide your time and learn from what you observe. Keep your life simple. ✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look back and you will gain greater insight from situations you have experienced in the past. Personal gains are featured, and listening to your intuition will help you make the right choice. Don't let anyone misguide you. Trust in yourself. ✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are astute, creative and persuasive. You are smart and spontaneous.

(To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter, Facebook and LinkedIn.)

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

			6		1		5	
		4				9		2
	6			5	4		3	
7			9			2		5
		8		2		1		
2		3			5			4
	7		1	6			2	
9		6				8		
	8		3		9			

Difficulty Level ★ 6/11

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

6	4	9	3	5	1	7	2	8
7	5	2	9	8	6	3	1	4
3	8	1	7	4	2	9	5	6
9	6	5	1	7	8	4	3	2
2	1	7	4	6	3	8	9	5
8	3	4	2	9	5	6	7	1
4	2	6	5	3	9	1	8	7
1	7	3	8	2	4	5	6	9
5	9	8	6	1	7	2	4	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 6/4

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WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

'AVE MARIA' Solution: 13 letters

E	G	P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L	A	C	O	V	A
C	K	R	N	D	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	F	E	R
E	H	A	A	T	T	R	A	N	Q	U	I	L	C	S
I	C	Y	L	T	R	N	I	A	R	F	E	R	E	O
P	R	E	M	E	I	A	R	O	T	E	G	M	L	N
R	U	R	S	N	H	A	N	Y	H	R	A	A	I	G
E	H	O	L	O	S	T	T	S	A	C	T	G	N	C
T	C	M	E	O	P	W	F	C	L	C	B	I	E	H
S	N	O	I	T	O	M	E	O	I	A	D	C	D	A
A	I	S	U	N	I	M	O	D	Y	R	T	R	I	N
M	T	T	O	C	S	O	E	C	O	D	O	E	U	T
M	A	C	F	R	A	N	Z	C	E	W	A	T	G	S
A	L	L	D	N	E	G	E	L	I	A	H	L	L	U
S	C	H	U	B	E	R	T	D	I	O	N	A	I	P
S	N	A	M	R	E	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	I	O

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Benedicta, Celine, Chants, Choir, Church, Compose, Dion, Dominus, Emotion, Fifty-two, Franz, German, Grace, Gratia, Guide, Hail, Hymn, Lady of the Lake, Latin, Legend, Magic, Mass, Masterpiece, Opus, Peaceful, Piano, Poem, Prayer, Recording, Reflection, Refrain, Schubert, Scott, Solo, Song, Tranquil, Translate, Vocal, Walter, Wedding, Word

Last Friday's Answer: William Golding

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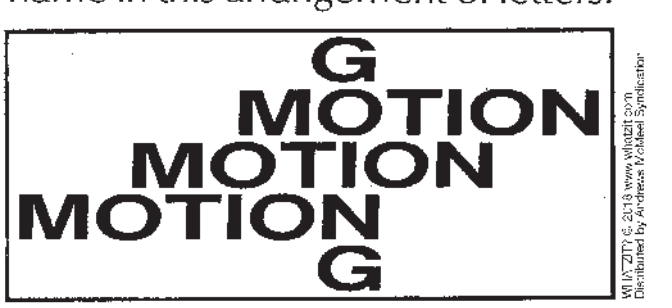

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Halep beats Stephens, wins first Grand Slam title

AP
Romania's Simona Halep kisses the trophy as she celebrates winning the final match of the French Open tennis tournament against Sloane Stephens of the U.S. in three sets 3-6, 6-4, 6-1, at the Roland Garros stadium in Paris, France, Saturday, June 9, 2018.

PARIS — Maybe all of those losses in Grand Slam finals helped Simona Halep actually win one.

She'd gone 0-3 in matches with a major trophy on the line before facing Sloane Stephens for the French Open title Saturday, so there was plenty to remember: what it felt like to give a lead away, to make a key mistake, to walk away with regrets.

"All the experience from those three finals that I lost ... was a positive thing," Halep said, "and gave me a little bit more power to believe."

Halep added Grand Slam trophy No. 1 to her No. 1 ranking, coming back from a set and a break down to beat Stephens 3-6, 6-4, 6-1 and win the championship at Roland Garros in a match made up of long points and key momentum swings.

"That's the most important thing—that I stay there focused," said Halep, the first Romanian to collect a major title since her manager, Virginia Ruzici, at the 1978 French Open. "I believed. And I never gave up."

The 26-year-old Halep was describing this particular match. She could have been speaking about her career.

Halep lost two previous finals at Roland Garros—against Maria Sharapova in 2014, then Jelena Ostapenko in 2017 despite leading by a set and 3-0 in the second. Her third runner-up finish came against Caroline Wozniacki at the Australian Open in January.

"Been kicked in the stomach a couple of times when she's had chances," said Halep's coach, Darren Cahill. "They say the destination is more beautiful if there's a bit of a bumpy road and you eventually get there. And that's what happened to her today."

On a muggy afternoon, Halep began slowly, unable to solve Stephens, the 10th-seeded American who won her first Grand Slam title at last year's U.S. Open. Both women are adept at defense, figuring out ways—via speed, strength, skill and instinct — to get nearly every ball back over the net. They're also both able to switch to offense in a snap.

Those traits lent themselves to engaging exchanges of 10 strokes, 20 strokes or more, sometimes interrupted by spectators who would gasp or begin to clap, thinking that a point was over when it still was not.

The players were not trading looping shots, mind you, meant merely to keep the ball between the lines. For the most part, they were violent smacks at the ball, delivered with the intention of ending a point. It often seemed effortless for Stephens, who broke for a 3-1 edge when Halep put a forehand in the net.

When Halep ended a 14-stroke point by pushing a backhand wide, Stephens owned the first set. She wheeled toward her box, which included U.S. national soccer team player Jozy Altidore, and shook a fist. Not much after that, Stephens broke to begin the second set, then held for a 2-0 lead. It appeared she was on her way to improving to 7-0 in tournament finals.

And then, suddenly, everything changed. Stephens started missing. A double-fault here. A forehand into the net there. A backhand wide. Another long. Halep took 15 of 18 points and four games in a row.

Both Halep and Cahill thought Stephens looked a little gassed.

From 4-all in the second, Halep grabbed seven games in a row to take that set and build a 5-0 edge in third.

Nadal targets 11th crown in Paris

Rafael Nadal admits that his desire to clinch an 11th French Open title on Sunday is fired by his growing realization that the end of his career may not be too far away.

The 32-year-old Spaniard, with 16 majors to his name, will play his 24th Grand Slam final at Roland Garros against Dominic Thiem who is in his first.

Victory on Sunday will give Nadal an 11th title in Paris and equal Margaret Court's all-time record for wins at the same Slam event—in her case, the Australian Open from 1960 and 1973

Nadal still trails great rival Roger Federer by four major titles although the Swiss star is more than four years older.

"For me, the motivation to play here always is high, high as possible," said Nadal after breezing past Juan Martin del Potro 6-4, 6-1, 6-2 in Friday's semi-finals in what was his 85th win in Paris against just two defeats.

"But for me, I believe that there are limited chances in your career.

"I have lost a lot of opportunities through injuries, and I know the years are going quick. So there is not 10 more chances to keep playing here."

The statistics illustrate Nadal's concerns—he has missed at least eight Slam tournaments in his career through a legacy of wrist and knee problems.

Such is his motivation to win his 17th Grand Slam on Sunday, that the task facing Austrian 24-year-old Thiem was described as "almost impossible" by Del Potro.

"It is almost impossible to beat Rafa," said Del Potro who had his chances in the semifinals but failed to convert any of his seven break points before his challenge petered out into weary hopelessness.

Nadal raced away with 14 of the last 17 games.

"He's too strong. He's improving his backhand a lot. That's why he's the No. 1 and beating all the guys. "He looks fresh. He is healthy. And the strength that he has and the mentality, everything is perfect, works perfect for him playing on clay," Del Potro added.

There have, however, appeared to be one or two chinks in Nadal's armour at Roland Garros this year.

On Friday, del Potro was by far the better player in the first set while, in the quarter-finals, Diego Schwartzman won the first set.

It was the first time in three years that Nadal had dropped a set in Paris.

"You can win a set, but not a match against Rafa," said Del Potro keen not to over-egg any hint of weakness in Nadal's game.

At least Thiem has in the past found the key to unravelling the Nadal clay court enigma.

He is the only man to beat the world number one on clay in the last two years—in Madrid this spring and in Rome last year.

Judge HR in 8th sends Yankees over slumping Mets

NEW YORK (AP)—Once this Subway Series showdown turned into a game of home run derby, there was no doubt who was going to win.

The only real question: Who would go deep for the Yankees?

It was Aaron Judge, hitting a tiebreaking drive in the eighth inning that sent the Yankees over the Mets 4-3 Saturday night for their sixth straight victory in the all-New York matchup.

"Obviously, our team hits a lot of balls into the seats," winning pitcher David Robertson said.

Rookies Gleyber Torres and Miguel Andujar also homered at Citi Field, ensuring the Empire State Building would be sparkling in Yankees team colors. They have won four in a row overall and nine of 10.

The Yanks own baseball's best record (42-18) and lead with 103 home runs -- on pace to break the major league mark of 264 hit by the Seattle Mariners in 1997. The Mets, meanwhile rank near the bottom with 62.

Cubs 2, Pirates 0

In Chicago, Jon Lester combined with two relievers on a one-hitter, and the Cubs took advantage of a first-inning slip by center fielder Starling Marte in a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

Lester (7-2) allowed a two-out triple in the third to Austin Meadows, then retired Starling Marte on a groundout. Lester struck out five and walked two in seven innings, improving to 5-1 in his past six starts.

Brewers 12, Phillies 3

In Philadelphia, Ji-Man Choi hit a go-ahead, pinch-hit grand slam in the sixth inning, and Jesus Aguilar and Jonathan Villar also went deep in Milwaukee's victory over Philadelphia.

Nationals 7, Giants 5

In Washington, Bryce Harper hit his National League-leading 19th homer, and Washington beat San Francisco.

Harper's 437-foot blast to right-center came off reliever Ty Blach in the fourth inning.

Cardinals 6, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Yadier Molina doubled with the bases loaded, and Michael Wacha pitched two-run ball into the sixth inning, leading St. Louis to its 13th straight win over Cincinnati.

Red Sox 4, White 2

In Boston, J.D. Martinez hit a tiebreaking two-run homer, David Price pitched six solid innings to win his fifth straight decision and Boston rebounded from a series-opening loss to beat Chicago.

Royals 2, Athletics 0

In Oakland, Danny Duffy pitched seven innings of three-hit ball, and Kansas City beat Oakland to snap a six-game skid.

Duffy (3-6) struck out a season-high 10 and walked three.

Angels 2, Twins 1

In Minneapolis, Albert Pujols hit his 623rd career homer and tied Stan Musial for seventh on the career RBI list with 1,951, helping Los Angeles beat Minnesota after a four-hour rain delay.

Tigers 4, Indians2, 12 innings

In Detroit, Jeimer Candelario's two-run homer in the 12th inning gave Detroit the victory over Cleveland.

Rays 7, Mariners 3

In St. Petersburg, Blake Snell overcame occasional wildness to go six effective innings, and Tampa Bay stopped an eight-game losing streak by beating Felix Hernandez and Seattle.

Padres 5, Marlins 4

In Miami, Travis Jankowski hit a go-ahead bases-loaded single in the eighth inning to lift San Diego over Miami.

Blue Jays 4, Orioles 3, 10 innings

In Toronto, Luke Maile drove in the winning run with a bases-loaded walk in the 10th inning, and Toronto beat Baltimore.

Home or away? LeBron's summer of suspense has started

CLEVELAND (AP)—Maybe it was poetic LeBron James had a supporting cast on his injured right hand.

He was missing one in the NBA Finals.

For the second time in a career still ascending after 15 years, James was on the wrong side of a sweep as the Golden State Warriors, a team with no apparent weaknesses and as many as four of the league's 10 best players on its roster, transformed into a dynasty in Cleveland late Friday.

After what may have been his final game with the Cavaliers, James revealed he hurt himself in a fit of frustration following a Game 1 overtime loss.

He displayed a soft cast on his hand during his postgame news conference and then rounded up his children and some of their friends, and along with his wife, and the usual support group of handlers and security personnel, drove home to Akron.

His next stop is unknown.

Another suspenseful summer of "Where will LeBron go next?" is off and running.

In the next few weeks, James is expected to decline his $35.6 million contract option for next season with the Cavaliers and become an unrestricted free agent like he was in 2010 and 2014. Then the fun starts—well, officially and legally under NBA rules—and teams can begin courting King James to join them.

At the moment the list of suitors is limited, but it could grow before July as teams position themselves to acquire one of the game's most transcendent forces.

There are obvious potential landing spots, but James, who averaged 34 points, 10 assists and 8.5 rebounds against the Warriors, made it clear that any team coveting him better be prepared to win—everything.

He's still into hanging banners.

"I still want to be in championship mode," the 33-year-old said following his eighth straight NBA Finals appearance. "I think I've shown this year why I will still continue to be in championship mode."

Although James may have dropped to 3-6 in the finals, it hasn't diminished his pursuit of winning a fourth title or slaying this Golden State goliath, a monster of a team he never imagined getting in his way when he made his Ohio homecoming after playing four years in Miami.

So, who has a legitimate shot at getting him?

The Philadelphia 76ers can entice James with young stars Joel Embiid and Ben Simmons, salary-cap space to accommodate him and other pieces, and the luxury to stay in the Eastern Conference to avoid meeting up with the Warriors until the Larry O'Brien Trophy is up for grabs.

The Lakers' sales pitch will include their current flexibility to sign another maximum contract player—maybe Paul George or Kawhi Leonard—and Hollywood's celebrity-filled hills. James already owns two homes and a film production company in Los Angeles, where the star could become a supernova.

Don't rule out the Houston Rockets, who pushed Golden State to a Game 7 in the postseason. In presumed MVP James Harden; Chris Paul, one of James' closest friends; and bent-on-overthrowing-the-Warriors general manager Daryl Morey, the Rockets have the building blocks to assemble an uber-team.

In the end, James may decide home is still the sweetest spot.

The Cavaliers, though, have a lot of work to do to convince him he should hang around. The team's decision to trade All-Star guard Kyrie Irving last summer to Boston sparked a sequence of events that led to a mid-season overhaul, soured James and sent him into the playoffs with a group he carried as far as humanly possible.

Cleveland can offer James more money—a five-year, $209 million contract—than anyone else, but the larger issue is what it can do to improve a roster that's currently short on title-winning performance. The Cavs have the No. 8 overall pick in this month's draft as an asset to perhaps package with All-Star forward Kevin Love, who could finally be moved after being the subject of trade rumors for years.

And there's also the delicate matter of James' rocky relationship with team owner Dan Gilbert. The two have co-existed purely on business terms since patching things up after Gilbert eviscerated James when he bolted for Miami. It's unclear if they can move forward together.

On a podcast during the Finals, Gilbert said he views James as much more than a player

"Legally, he may be working for our organization, but that's not really the case," Gilbert said. "He's more of your partner, really."

The comment was a concession of sorts from Gilbert, who understands what James means to his franchise and what he represents to Northeast Ohio—hope.

James came home four years ago promising to win a championship and delivered within two seasons, ending a 52-year title drought in a city he has personally helped to revitalize. The summer of 2016 was unforgettable, with a downtown parade that James has said overwhelmed him with emotion.

It may go down as his crowning achievement, or something he wants to feel again.

If so, there's only one place where that can happen.

The last time James left Cleveland it was because he needed a team to help him achieve greatness. He found it with Dwyane Wade and Chris Bosh in Miami, and he came back a different man, ready to build his legacy. A father of three, his priorities have changed again, and this time the decision is more complicated.

There's a tug-of-war going on between James' brain and heart.

"When I decide what I'm going to do with my future, my family and the folks that have been with me for the last 20 years will have a say-so," he said. "Then it ultimately will come down to me."

It always does.

Cleveland Cavaliers' LeBron James shoots against Golden State Warriors' Draymond Green during the first half of Game 3 of basketball's NBA Finals, Wednesday, June 6, 2018, in Cleveland.

With 2 titles, Finals MVP Durant gets the last word

CLEVELAND (AP)—Kevin Durant had a simple message for his critics: "Thanks."

Durant's move to the Golden State Warriors, booed by many around the NBA, has unquestionably paid off for both the player and his team. Two years, two NBA championships, two NBA Finals MVPs and almost certainly a new contract in the next few weeks after he and the Warriors decide on the best way to proceed.

He is often a man of few words, but Durant let his thoughts be known Friday night after the Warriors won their second consecutive title by finishing off a sweep of the Cleveland Cavaliers. There was a rare openness to Durant in his postgame remarks as he let his detractors know that whatever they said when he left Oklahoma City for Golden State didn't mean much then and means even less now.

"Former players and players now that got a lot to say about what I did, they know how I play," Durant said, his newest Finals MVP trophy standing just to his left. "They know exactly what I bring. They know. They know. They understand when they get on the court with me or if they check up with me, they know what it is. So I kind of try to just stand on that. But I know what I bring to the game."

Here's what he brings to the Warriors: 26.4 points per game in this regular season, 29 points per game in the playoffs, a 43-point explosion in Game 3 that will go into NBA Finals lore and a triple-double in the series clincher to cap it all off.

But the criticism—which came from both current and former players when he joined the Warriors to form a superteam two summers ago—probably won't stop, either.

Perhaps a coincidence, Durant's former Oklahoma City teammate Russell Westbrook posted a video of himself singing along with an Ice Cube rap on Saturday morning—the message of the track being that someone had lost his or her edge. "I saw it comin'; that's why I went solo," Cube rapped, as Westbrook mouthed the words. (Not long afterward, amid speculation that was directed to Durant, Westbrook added another post that said, "Stop reaching.")

Not everyone has a negative thought on Durant and his choices. Cleveland star LeBron James, who denied Durant a title when Miami beat Oklahoma City in 2012, raves about Durant's game.

"You knew he was built for greatness from the time that he was drafted," James said.

The greatness can't be questioned now. And if Durant going to Golden State hasn't been great for league-wide parity, it has quite obviously been great for the Warriors.

They don't really care about much else.

"K.D.'s been amazing these last two years, especially in the finals, and so deserving of back-to-back finals MVPs," Warriors guard Stephen Curry said. "I'm going to be his biggest fan in there with what he's able to do. I think the biggest thing we appreciate in the locker room is, again, what everybody brings to the table and we kind of unlock the greatness out of each other."

When it was all over Friday night, there was both an arrogance and a humility to Durant—understandable.

The 29-year-old is on top of the basketball world, rich beyond his wildest expectations, with rings for both hands now and a hope that his game is only going to keep getting better.

Even in that moment, though, he remembered his roots.

NMIFA recognizes awardees for 2017 fall season

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Kanoa U12 coach Krizel Tuazon, left back row, and her players pose with their trophy and medals during the awards ceremony for the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth at the Kanoa Resort last Friday. Also in the photo are NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, right back row, and deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino, second right.

Northern Mariana Islands Football Association handed trophies and medals to players and teams that excelled in the 2017 NMIFA Fall Youth League during an awards ceremony at the Kanoa Resort last Friday.

NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta and deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino awarded medals and trophies to the champion teams in the co-ed U12, girls U15, boys U14, and boys U17 divisions and miniature trophies to the Golden Boot, Golden Glove, and Fair Play winners.

Kanoa Football Club-1 took home medals and the championship trophy in the co-ed U12 age group, while its goalkeeper Joe Emil Antonio got the Golden Glove plum for yielding only 24 goals throughout the three-month season (September to November). MP United's Andrew Chung was the recipient of the Golden Boot trophy in the division for scoring 39 goals.

In the boys U14, Taka Borja's 15 goals gave him the Golden Boot award, while MP United's Floyd Muna earned the Golden Glove trophy for allowing only seven goals in the fall season, which MP United ruled.

In the girls U15, Kanoa was the champion, while its main striker Paulynn Joyce brought home another Goldel Boot award for recording a field-best 13 goals. Irish Viray of the runner-up Shirley's FC won the Golden Glove trophy after surrendering only three goals.

In the boys U17, season champion MP United had a sweep with Sunjoon Tenorio and Christopher Aninzo getting the Golden Boot and Golden Glove awards, respectively. Tenorio had 19 goals in the fall, while Aninzo gave up only six.

For the Fair Play awards, which were handed to the players that exhibited excellent sportsmanship and were chosen by coaches, the recipients were MP United's Audrey Castro (U12), Kanoa's Merrick Toves (U15), MP United's Maya Shimizu (U15), and Kanoa's Jonathan Mindanao (U17).

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

The individual awardees in the girls U15 division are joined by NMIFA general secretary Ross Zapanta, right, and deputy general secretary Merlie Tolentino, fourth left, for a photo after the trophy presentation.

670

From Page 28

giving the 670 Sonics XVI a shaky 48-47 lead.

However, Henry Aguon missed on a scooped shot, while Aldraine Galang collared the rebound and spotted John Mendoza sprinting to their frontcourt. Mendoza overshot his mark, but stayed in the play, battling a Warriors 1 defender and Magat for the loose ball. Magat won the scramble, attempted a point-blanked shot, and made the basket for their 50-47 lead. Magat was also fouled, but failed to complete the and-1 play.

Down by three, with a little over a minute left, Aguon decided to take matters into his own hands when he pulled up for a triple, but he missed. Joshua Chavez then got the rebound and drew a foul on Magofna.

Chavez went 0-for-2 from the line, keeping the Warriors 1's hopes alive. However, after Chavez's second missed charity, Vince Igitol lost the ball as he dribbled following a rebound play and it hit his right foot before rolling down the sideline in front of the 670 Sonics XVI bench.

The 670 Sonics XVI regained possession and Chavez found himself on the 15-foot line again when he was fouled underneath the basket. The burly forward faltered on both attempts anew, but fortunately Galang got the offensive board and dribbled out of the shaded lane. With the clock ticking, Magofna opted not to foul Galang, who eventually lost possession at the corner baseline with only a second left on the clock, which was not enough for the Warriors 1 to attempt a decent shot, as it had to do the inbound from the backcourt.

With the victory, the 670 Sonics XVI arranged a semis duel against No. 1 seed and pennant champion Ol'Aces Real Deal, which eased past the 670 Sonics XVII, 100-37, in the other playoff match last Saturday.

It was all over, but the final scores for the heavily favored Ol'Aces Real Deal, as it was way ahead at halftime, 49-13.

The Ol'Aces Real Deal and 670 Sonics XVI will meet at 6:15 tonight for a slot to tomorrow's finals.

First Game

Sonics XVI 50 — R. Bernardo 12, Contreras 12, B. Bernardo 6, Chavez 5, Lagmay 5, Magat 4, Galang 4, Mendoza 2.

NSA Warriors 1 47 — Aguon 17, Malwelbug 11, Lifoifoi 6, Sulap 5, Igitol 4, Omar 2, Magofna 2.

Scoring by quarters: 10-7, 31-15, 50-40-33, 50-47.

Fourth Game

Ol'Aces Real Deal 100 — Santos 24, Abejo 21, Sacdalan 17, Blake 17, Peter 6, Kabiriel 5.

670 Sonics XVII 37 — Sabangan 9, Cadag 9, Bravo 7, Linaogo 4, Kim 4, Ben 4.

Scoring by quarters: 28-7, 49-13, 69-21, 100-37.

NMI

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make an appeal to the Council. Last Saturday, Rangamar said he received the appeal letter White wrote to the Council.

"I don't know what will happen. But, we are planning to sue the Council for this unfair decision, for the aguish they have caused the team, our players," the MIBF official said.

"It was very difficult to explain to the players that they will not be able to join the team after going through the selection process, attending the practices, and doing their fundraisers. Our heads were bowed when we discussed the situation. It was a very emotional meeting," Rangamar said.

Scoring machine Douglas Schmidt and point guard N-Nesh are the members of the men's team hit by the new ruling, while Lalaine Pagarao was the casualty from the women's crew. Pagarao played for the CNMI in the 2014 Micro Games in Pohnpei and went to the Philippines last month to secure travel documents for the competition in Yap. Schmidt suited up for the CNMI team that played in the Pacific Mini Games in Vanuatu last year, while Siech is a familiar fixture in the island's youth and men's leagues.

"They (other players) feel the pain of the three players. If there's something positive that came out of this, it's the determination of the teams. They vowed to do their best for their teammates affected by the new rules," Rangamar said.

Meanwhile, *Saipan Tribune* sent an email to Council president Bill Keldermans of Palau to shed light on the new eligibility rules, but he has yet to respond at press time,

SAIPAN

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Evangelista, Charles McDonald, Benjamin Palacios Jr., Destiny Pangelinan, Gregorio Pangelinan, Jon T. Reyes, Gunner Sablan, Jylon Sbalan, Dylan Santos, Jeremiah Suel Jr., and Michael Tomokane. Calvani Deleon Guerrero and Frank S. Ad are the head coach and assistant manager, respectively.

The group will be back on Saipan today and will resume its training session this week as it will leave the island for Korea later this month for the regionals. The 2018 Asia Pacific Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament will be held in Seoul anew and will run from June 29 to July 6. The CNMI will be battling nine other teams for a slot to the World Series, which will take place in South Williamsport in Pennsylvania from Aug. 16 to 26.

Meanwhile, the CNMI Junior and Senior League All-Star teams are headed for the Philippines.

In the Senior League, the Commonwealth bets will be up against the hosts, Guam, Hong Kong, Indonesia, New Zealand. In the Junior League, the CNMI will challenge China, Hong Kong, and Chinese-Taipei besides the PH team. Both competitions will be held in Clark, Pampanga from June 29 to July 6.

WORLD CUP PREVIEW

Group E: Put your money on Neymar and company

(Editor's Note: Saipan Tribune will run a series of stories leading up to the World Cup 2018 that will be held from June 14 to July 15 in Russia. Today, we are featuring teams in Group E)

MOSCOW (AP)—The choice is obvious—Brazil.

And what makes the Seleção more dangerous is the good recovery of Neymar, who seemed to be not bothered now with the foot and ankle injuries he sustained in February this year.

With the first slot to the Last 16 in the bag for Brazil, only one is left and it will be an open race among Switzerland, Costa Rica, and Serbia.

BRAZIL

The gloom that engulfed Brazil after the 7-1 debacle against Germany in the 2014 World Cup has lifted.

Brazil was the first team to clinch qualification for Russia and had memorable wins on the way, including a 3-0 success over Argentina in the same Mineirao stadium of the 2014 semifinal humiliation.

It took the appointment of Tite in September 2016 to revive Brazil. Under his helm, there have been 13 wins, three draws and only one loss—in a friendly against Argentina.

KEY PLAYER: *Neymar* (Paris Saint-Germain)—Should be at the peak of his game aged 26 in Russia, the forward will have his best chance to overthrow Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo in best player awards if Brazil wins.

COACH: *Adenor Bacchi*—Universally known as Tite, he turned Brazil from flop to favorites. Forget Dunga's muscular 2014 World Cup team that depended heavily on Neymar. Brazil is now about organization and flair.

SWITZERLAND

Now is the time for Switzerland to be more than the sum of its talented parts. The quarterfinals are a realistic goal.

Don't call it a golden generation, but the Swiss have a core of players from the 2009 Under-17 world champion team and a depth of tournament experience.

However, those World Cup and European Championship adventures ended, at best, in the Round of 16. Switzerland last won a World Cup knockout game in 1954, and that was just in a group playoff as host nation.

Critics can pick holes in how the Swiss qualified: Nine straight wins in a weak group, and a playoff against Northern Ireland decided by a dubious penalty call.

A well-balanced team has seemed to need a high-class central defender and reliable scorer. In Basel's Manuel Akanji, it might have found that defender.

KEY PLAYER: *Valon Behrami* (Udinese)—Going to his fourth straight World Cup in the elder statesman role for a young squad, speaking all of Switzerland's three main languages. His absence weighed heavily in the group-deciding loss at Portugal.

COACH: *Vladimir Petkovic*—The unheralded Bosnian coach now seems to have grown into the role three years after succeeding two-time Champions League winner Ottmar Hitzfeld.

COSTA RICA

The tiny Central American country reached the quarterfinals of the World Cup four years ago, losing to the Netherlands on a penalty shootout.

This will be Costa Rica's fifth World Cup appearance, impressive for a country with a population just under 5 million. Bryan Ruiz is the main attacking threat, while Celso Borges is a midfield linchpin.

Still, November friendlies were hardly encouraging, with a 5-0 thrashing by Spain and a 1-0 loss to Hungary.

KEY PLAYER: *Keylor Navas* (Real Madrid)—Probably the best-known player in the squad, the goalkeeper's strong showing in Brazil secured a move to Madrid in 2014.

COACH: *Oscar Ramirez*—Former midfielder took over after Paulo Wanchope resigned following a post-match fight.

SERBIA

Serbia cruised through its qualifying group to return to the World Cup final tournament after eight years, the second time since becoming an independent nation in 2006.

The skillful squad scored the most goals (20) in the group with Aleksandar Mitrovic the best scorer with six goals, leaving behind Ireland, Wales and Austria.

Their fans traveling to Russia to support their team should behave after FIFA fined the Serbian soccer federation $160,000 for incidents involving fans at World Cup qualifying games.

Slavoljub Muslin was removed as coach despite the successful qualifying campaign, with Mladen Krstajic taking over his post.

KEY PLAYER: *Captain Branislav Ivanovic* (Zenit St. Petersburg)—Defensive experience from a stellar career for Chelsea used to anchor the defense. Played all ten World Cup qualifiers

COACH: *Mladen Krstajic*—The former national team defender and Bundesliga veteran was brought in on interim bases in October last year before getting the official position a few months later. He has never held a previous coaching position, drawing criticism from home, however he calmed nerves in March with a convincing 2-0 victory over Nigeria in a friendly.

FIFA All-TIME RANKINGS

TEAM	RANK	PTS	MP	W	D	L	GS	GA	AV. PTS	APPS
Brazil	1	227	104	70	17	17	221	102	2.2	20
Serbia	12	59	43	17	8	18	64	59	1.4	11
Switzerland	21	39	33	11	6	16	45	59	1.2	10
Costa Rica	29	19	15	5	4	6	17	23	1.3	4

MP: Matches played **GA** : Goals against
GS: Goal scored **APPS** : World Cup appearances (excluding 2018)

GROUP E SCHEDULE

Costa Rica VS Serbia (June 17, 10PM, Samara)	Serbia VS Switzerland (June 23, 4AM, Kaliningrad)
Brazil VS Switzerland (June 18, 4AM, Rostov-on-Don)	Switzerland VS Costa Rica (June 28, 4AM, Nizhny Novgorod)
Brazil VS Costa Rica (June 22, 10PM, St. Petersburg)	Serbia VS Brazil (June 26, 4AM, Moscow)

SOURCE: FIFA.COM (Schedule is based on Saipan Time)

Halep beats Stephens, wins first Grand Slam title
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Sports

Home or away? LeBron's summer of suspense has started
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NMI hit by Micro Games eligibility rules

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The CNMI's men's and women's national basketball teams cried foul on the new eligibility rules that will be implemented in next month's Micronesian Games in Yap and threatened to file a lawsuit against the Micronesian Games Council.

"We were beyond disappointed. We're devastated upon learning the new rules," CNMI men's and women's head coach Elias Rangamar said in an interview with *Saipan Tribune*, adding he will lose three key players in the aftermath of the changes.

The new rules state that for a basketball player to compete in the Micro Games, he or she must be a citizen and passport holder of the country he or she is representing. In the CNMI's case, a player should be a U.S. citizen and was born here or a U.S. citizen and at least has a grandparent born here. In the previous eligibility rules, non-U.S. citizens can still represent the CNMI provided they meet the seven-year residency, while a three-year residency is in effect for other Micronesian athletes living here.

The new eligibility rules, which are only for basketball, were announced late last month after they were put into a vote based on FIBA Oceania's recommendation. FIBA Oceania would want to use the Micro Games as a qualifier for higher competition (FIBA Oceania Championships, World Cup, and others) thus after being turned down in an earlier meeting with the Council, the former asked members to reconsider the sanctioning group's suggestion.

"I am not against the new rules. What I am disappointed about is its timing. Why only now? We started our preparation early last year and made the selection a month before the proposed changes were put into a vote. In about two months, the Games will start and they made the announcement last month. I don't get it," said Rangamar, who expressed his dismay during the Northern Marianas Sports Association meeting.

Other NMSA member-associations were also caught off guard with the ruling and backed the CNMI teams and Mariana Islands Basketball Federation in asking NMSA president Michael White to

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Douglas Schmidt, seen here hounded by defenders during a local league, is one of the three players on the CNMI national teams affected by the new eligibility rules in the 2018 Micronesian Games.

Saipan tops district meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

As expected, the Saipan Major All-Stars ruled the 2018 CNMI District Meet and earned the rights to represent the Commonwealth to the 2018 Asia Pacific-Middle East Regional Tournament.

The Manny Evangelista-managed selection defeated host Rota and Tinian in convincing fashions over the weekend and was handed the outright victory in the three-team competition yesterday, as the Saipan-Tinian finale did not push through due to rain.

The Saipan Major All-Stars shut down Rota last Friday, 10-0, and then crushed Tinian last Saturday, 21-3. In other results, Tinian slipped past Rota, 4-3, to take the second and last finals berth and set up a title showdown against the heavily favored Saipan Major All-Stars,

The finale was then yet for 10am yesterday, but was moved to 1pm, as the Joaquin Mesngon Ogo Baseball Field was still unplayable after it rained in the morning. The field was still unsafe for players yesterday afternoon, thus organizers called off the Saipan-Tinians finals and awarded the tournament win to Evangelista's wards.

The Saipan Major All-Star Team, which will now be known as the CNMI All-Star, is made up of Cardi Borja, Joel Borja, Deandre Cruz, Achilles

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Players of the Saipan Major All-Star Team pose for a photo at the dugout while waiting for their game against host Rota at the Joaquin Mesngon Ogo Baseball Field last Friday.

670 Sonics XVI takes first semis set, faces Ol'Aces

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The 670 Sonics XVI survived the NSA Warriors 1's second-half rally to escape with a 50-47 win in the first playoff game in the boys U18 division of the 2018 Frank M. Diaz Memorial Youth League last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

670 Sonics XVI, which led by as much as 16 points in the first half, got timely baskets from Ronald Bernardo and Robi Magat and extra possessions down the stretch to pull off the close victory and earn the first semis seat in the competition. NSA Warriors 1's, which committed costly turnovers and muffed a couple of shots in the end, bowed out of contest.

The Warriors 1 threatened to steal the win from the 670 Sonics XVI after playing catch up majority of the game when it tied the match, 47-all, 2:10 remaining on the clock. J.D. Magofna drilled the equalizer to complete a 14-1 run and the Warriors 1 had a chance to grab the driver's seat when Ronald Bernardo only split his charities on the other end,

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The 670 Sonics XVI's Robi Magat unloads a crucial shot in their playoff game against the NSA Warriors 1 in the boys U18 division of the Diaz youth caging last Saturday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.